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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Pupils' home visit bridges generation gap

A peep into past of town's oldest school

GREEN LIGHT FOR 120 HOMES PLAN

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council planning committee have conditionally approved a scheme to build 120 homes to the north of Cobbs Clough, Whalleys Road.

Outline permission for the redevelopment of the site is the subject of a legal agreement including requiring the developer to provide 30% of the units as affordable housing; and 20% as specialist housing for the elderly.

This is phase one of a new £20.7m housing development by developer, Laurus Homes, part of Trafford Housing Trust (THT) and L&Q Developments LLP.

THT and L&Q Developments LLP won Homes England's competitive tender for the development of the site and has partnered with Seddon Construction and Turley as planning consultants.

Phase one is the first part of a proposed overall £49m development comprising 299 homes in total.

Graeme Scott, development director at Trafford Housing Trust, said: "The development of this site is key to the regeneration of Skelmersdale, improving housing choice in the area and wider economic growth ambitions for West Lancashire.

"Whalleys South is a sign of our commitment to partnership working as Laurus Homes and we are proud of our innovative development model, which sees us reinvest all profits into providing more new homes and supporting wider social purpose initiatives."

Jenny Fryer, planner at Turley, commented: "We are very pleased to have been part of the project team which has secured reserved matters approval for this site which forms part of a strategic residential site in Skelmersdale. The development will help meet demand for housing in the area and will contribute positively to the regeneration of the town."

An aerial view of the proposed layout of the development.

Michael Orgill, land and partnerships director at Seddon, said: "We are delighted to be working with THT and L&Q Developments on this project.

"Since the early stages of the bid everyone has had a focus on delivering a scheme that addresses housing need at all levels, creates opportunities for local people and businesses, and delivers a scheme of architectural merit that creates a community and environment for the residents to thrive."

Nicola Elsworth, head of Public Sector Land at Homes England, said: "I am delighted that the Whalleys 2 site has now secured reserved matters planning consent. This is an excellent example of partnership working with the developer and the council."

Work on phase one is expected to start in summer 2019 with homes released for sale in 2020.

Theo at the Plaza with parents Katt and Loz.

Cinema rolls out the red carpet for Theo

A YOUNG leukaemia sufferer from Up Holland who normally has to avoid public places due to the risk of infection enjoyed the VIP treatment thanks to big-hearted cinema staff.

Three-year-old Theo Hamilton was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia after his parents took him to A&E fearing he had meningitis when he developed a rash on his back.

Now because of his weak immune system he is unable to go to venues such as the cinema for fear of contracting illness.

But when staff at the Plaza in Waterloo were contacted by his school, St Thomas the Martyr, they came up with a solution by making the entire 92-seat cinema available for Theo, his family and a few friends, to watch the new *Ralph Breaks the Internet* animated film.

A spokesperson for the Plaza said: "We were contacted by Molly, a primary school teacher in Up Holland, asking if we could accommodate one of her pupils who has been diagnosed with leukaemia, and is undergoing three years of chemotherapy.

"Because of his weakened immune system, Theo, who turns four next week, can't go into public spaces because of the possibility of contracting a bug.

"So we invited him, along with his family and a few school friends, to come and watch *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, with the whole cinema to themselves, with drinks, popcorn and sweets supplied. And we put his name up in lights on the canopy.

"Theo is a lively little boy and we wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back soon."

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91-year-old woman dies from injuries sustained in M58 crash

A 91-year-old-woman who was involved in the second of two serious multiple-vehicle collisions within 90 minutes of each other on the M58 in West Lancashire has died from her injuries.

Police were called at around 10.10am on Tuesday, January 8 following reports of an accident involving a Mercedes lorry, a Ford Transit van and two cars, an Audi and a Ford Fiesta.

The collision happened in queuing traffic following an earlier incident on the same stretch of the motorway near to junction 3 between Skelmersdale and Bickerstaffe in which Anne Kerr, 50, from Southport and 14-year Joe Cairns, a pupil at Pontville School, Ormskirk, were killed.

The driver of the Ford in the later crash, a 91-year-old woman from Orrell, suffered serious head, chest and leg injuries and was taken to Aintree Hospital but sadly died on Wednesday, January 16.

The driver of the Ford Transit, a 52-year-old man from Golborne, sustained chest and back injuries and a passenger, a 49-year-old man from Radcliffe, suffered a minor head injury. A 38-year-old man from Bradford, the driver of the Audi, suffered a fractured skull, facial fractures and head injuries and was treated at Aintree Hospital.

Sergeant Steve Wignall, of Lancashire Police, said: "These are tragic circumstances and my thoughts are very much with the family and friends of the woman involved, as well as those who died following the earlier collision on the M58.

"We are continuing to appeal for information about both collisions and would urge anyone with information to come forward."

Anyone with information about either collision can call 101 or email 18@lancashire.pnn.police.uk quoting log number 275 of January 8.

Tributes to pensioner fatally injured in New Year's Day accident

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pensioner from Burscough who has died following a traffic accident on New Year's Day.

Margaret Pemberton, 85, was a passenger in an Audi SQ5 which collided with bridge railings on Heaton Bridge Road, Scarisbrick at about 3.30pm on Tuesday, January 1.

She was taken to Aintree Hospital with broken ribs and back and head injuries but sadly passed away in hospital on Thursday, January 10.

Her family have issued the following tribute: "Margaret was a beautiful, elegant, fun-loving, vivacious mum, nan, great nan and friend who lived life to the full. She will be sadly missed but never forgotten."

Meanwhile Lancashire Police are appealing for witnesses to the accident to come forward. Sergeant Phil Baxendale said: "My thoughts remain with Margaret's family and friends during this incredibly difficult time. If you saw the collision, please speak to us."

Witnesses can call 101 quoting incident reference 1346 of January 1.

Margaret Pemberton.

Council dismisses OWL spokesman's concerns about proposed new development arm

Report by **Kenny Parker**

WEST Lancs Council chiefs have dismissed concerns about a possible conflict of interest over the authority's proposed new housing development arm.

The authority announced the project last year saying it would aim to deliver ambitious and exciting projects for local people.

However, Councillor Ian Davis, finance spokesman for the independent Our West Lancashire group, has voiced concerns about possible links between Savills, the company advising the council on the scheme, and Lord Derby's estate, which he claims stands to benefit from the sale of large landholdings if the council release green belt land under proposals for the new Local Plan.

The Derby ward councillor said: "Lord Derby's estate director lists a directorship at Savills on the social media site, LinkedIn. Savills have been awarded a £250,000 contract to advise the borough council on setting up a house building arm to enable it to build houses for profit.

"Once established, this new development company will be looking to purchase land in West Lancashire for house building. Given the connection between Lord Derby's estates and Savills and the controversial proposals to build thousands of houses on land currently owned by Lord Derby, I have written to the council's chief executive seeking assurances that Savills will not be appointed to non-executive directorships.

Councillor Ian Davis.

"Further, I am seeking assurances as to the council's longer-term intentions and potential for conflict over its role as the planning authority and potential development by this new house building arm."

However, a spokesman for the council responded: "Savills (UK) Limited has been engaged to provide consultancy support to help determine if the addition of a new development company will provide the council with an opportunity to enter the development market in West Lancashire, delivering a mixture of market-for-sale and affordable homes for residents of the borough. Grant funding was awarded to the council to support this initiative.

"The council understands the post holder identified left Savills in 2017. Any connection with the Knowsley estate and Savills has in no way had any bearing on, or influence on the work undertaken by the project team provided by Savills and the former post holder identified is not associated with this work. Furthermore, Savills do not and will not be holding any non-executive directorships of the company.

"A meeting of the council on February 27 will consider the findings of the work and decide whether to pursue this opportunity. Should the council decide to go ahead, it will have control over the company, including the appointment and removal of directors. The development plans are focused on council-owned land assisting in regeneration and not the development of green belt land.

Strict

"There is no conflict of interest between the council as a Local Planning Authority and the council's interest in setting up a development company. The process by which the Local Plan and planning applications are determined (which are statutory processes governed by strict legislation and, in the case of the Local Plan, examined by an independent Planning Inspector) is entirely separate from the management of the development company.

"Indeed, any decisions on planning applications made by the development company would have to be made by the planning committee, a cross-party committee of members who must make decisions on planning applications in light of the relevant planning policies and planning legislation."

County schools chief seeks to clarify stance on absence fines

BOSSES at Lancashire County Council have moved to clarify the situation regarding fines issued because of absence from school following what they described as "incorrect recent media coverage".

A statement issued by the authority said there is no initiative running regarding increasing the amount of money people would be fined because of an unauthorised absence from school. The penalty notice fine amounts for unauthorised absence from school are set by the Government and cannot be changed by a local authority.

The statement confirmed that the decision to authorise absence or not rests with the headteacher of the particular school and not with the county council.

Penalty notices of £120 for each child, reduced to £60 if paid within 21 days, are an enforcement option that are available to local authorities, if requested by schools. This continues to be the policy.

No figure of £1,000 has been discussed by the authority, or even suggested.

It added that the county council supports and encourages schools to work with parents to reduce unauthorised absences and at the request of headteachers, informal discussions are currently ongoing with schools to look at ways to manage absence, in particular excessive time taken off school for holidays.

However, at this stage considerations regarding possible changes are simply a way of gathering ideas to try to ensure that children and young people attend school and receive a good education. The policy regarding absence from school has not changed and there are no plans for this to happen.

County Councillor Susie Charles.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancahsire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "School attendance is given high priority in Lancashire and rightly so, as every day counts in each pupil's education.

"We will continue to encourage schools to work closely with parents to reduce unauthorised absences and our aim throughout is not to punish parents, but to ensure that children and young people attend school and receive a good education. We firmly believe that children and young people's success is linked to attendance and if children miss out on school, they miss out on learning."

Alarm alerts occupants to Lathom blaze

THE occupants of a property in Wheat Lane, Lathom were able to escape a blaze after their fire alarm alerted them.

The Fire Service was called to the building in the early hours of Sunday, January 20 and were told members of the public were still inside.

Fire appliances from Tarleton, Skelmersdale and Ormskirk attended and found the ground-floor kitchen well alight.

Crews forced entry into the building and two breathing apparatus teams with firefighting equipment tackled the fire before searching the property to ensure no persons were trapped.

The occupants of the building were located and confirmed that everyone was out and the property was empty. They had been alerted by the fire alarm.

After receiving a precautionary check by the ambulance service they did not require hospitalisation.

The fire was extinguished fully and crews conducted a full survey of the building to ensure there was no one within the premises. The fire crews remained in attendance for approximately three hours.

The fire caused extensive damage to the ground floor and contents.

Community invited to Dementia Friends Session at care home

CARDINAL Heenan House care home in Roby Mill is hosting an hour-long Dementia Friends session on Friday, February 8 starting at 2.30pm.

The aim of the event is to raise awareness and promote understanding of living with dementia around the area.

Refreshments will be available, local businesses will be represented, including Chris and Wendy from neighbouring pub The Fox, and organisers are hoping that members of the local community will also show their support.

A spokesperson for the event said: "We are asking for just an hour of people's time to get to understand a little more about life involving dementia."

More Saturday strikes called on Northern Rail

THE RMT Union has called a new batch of strikes on Northern Rail services in the long-running dispute over the role of guards on trains.

A walk-out is once again planned for this Saturday (January 26) and strikes are also planned for Saturdays February 2, 9 and 16.

Talks between Northern and RMT on the issue are currently deadlocked and if that remains the case more strikes are likely to be announced.

Meanwhile there has also been disruption on Northern services on Sundays as a result of engineering works and another dispute between staff and management over rest day working.

Rosie Cooper gives her reasons for rejecting Prime Ministers's Brexit deal

WEST Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper has explained why she voted against Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal.

The Prime Minister lost the vote on Tuesday, January 15 by 432 votes to 202, believed to the largest defeat of a Government motion in 100 years.

Almost 120 Conservative MPs voted against May's proposed deal, while three Labour MPs supported her.

Rosie Cooper said: "Alongside an overwhelming majority of MPs from across the political spectrum, including both those who campaigned to leave and those in favour of remain in the 2016 referendum, I voted to reject this really poor deal presented by the Prime Minister to the House.

"MPs from all sides agreed this deal was not in the best interests of the country.

"The public had their say in the referendum three years ago and voted to leave. This vote was on a deal with the EU about how we leave - a deal which was bad for the UK and bad for my constituents."

However Ms Cooper offered no comment on what deal she wanted to see with the EU.

Meanwhile, in the House of Commons on Monday (January 21) the Prime Minister presented her amended deal. She said she wanted to alter the backstop, which is the 'insurance policy' set up to keep a 'soft' border on the island of Ireland.

She also criticised calls for Brexit to be delayed and has abolished the £65 fee which would have been charged to EU citizens who want to remain in the UK following Brexit.

MPs will now vote on the Prime Minister's amended deal on Tuesday, January 29.

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Slimmers weigh in with 'goodies' for local food bank

Christ Church vicar Sarah O'Donoghue and Slimming World consultants Kathy Burslem, Tina Whewell and Sue Allt pictured with the goodies donated by members.

MEMBERS of Slimming World groups in West Lancashire have weighed in with a bumper donation of leftover 'goodies' for the Christ Church Ministry centre food bank in Aughton.

Senior consultant, Tina Whewell, said: "I'm so proud of all our members' commitment to getting back on plan. They know nothing is banned from our Food Optimising plan and things like chocolate, biscuits and crisps are allowed, in moderation.

"However, we also encourage members to identify the trigger foods that can lead them on the path of slimming destruction and that most people have had in abundance of over the festive period.

"This is something we do every year but this has got to be one of our best-ever donated 'goodie hampers'!

"When it was mentioned by Pauline Taylor, a local member and parishioner of Christ Church, that the ministry were always grateful for donations I couldn't believe how eager everyone was to get on board.

"Pauline has shed more than three stone and dropped three sizes with the help and support of her local Slimming World group and is determined to get to target this year, so she decided to donate all her leftover chocolate so she could give a 100% commitment, which is so inspiring for all the other members."

Sarah O'Donoghue the vicar at Christ Church, commented: "I really am overwhelmed the Slimming World members' generosity."

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School's care home visit helps to bridge the generation gap

PRIMARY school pupils are helping to bridge the generation gap by visiting a local care home.

Youngsters from St James' Catholic Primary School in Ashurst went along to Birch Green Care Home in Ivydale where they chatted away with residents about a range of topics, as well as sharing their life stories.

The visit was the first of many planned by Key Stage One pupils who will be attending the interactive sessions on a regular basis.

Research has shown that interaction between youngsters and the elderly has great benefits, including decreasing older people's sense of loneliness, delaying mental decline, lowering blood pressure and even reducing the risk of disease.

Children chat to one of the residents at the care home.

Gill Seddon, activities co-ordinator at Birch Green Care Home, said: "It's great to see the different generations interacting and getting along so well and the benefits have been medically proven to boost the wellbeing of those living in care homes.

"Everyone enjoyed themselves and we will look forward to welcoming them back soon."

Both residents and pupils had a great time with a fun-filled day including lots of activities, from clay modelling and painting, to drawing and board games.

The visitors also enjoyed a cooked lunch of chicken nuggets, chips and beans, followed by ice cream and sprinkles, that went down a real treat.

And they rounded off the afternoon with a sing-song and a couple of solo performances.

Headteacher at St James', Mrs Blacoe, said: "After watching the Channel 4 programme Old People's Homes for 4-year-olds we were inspired to reach out to the local community and make links with the elderly residents at Birch Green.

"The links we have made are having a huge impact on both the school and the residents in the care home.

"The children are eager to return next month, to see their 'new friends' and we aim to make this a regular part of our school curriculum."

And Year One teacher, Shelley Lee, added: "The children had a wonderful time. The staff were so welcoming and made them feel at ease straight away. They were able to chat and sing with the residents within a short time of being there.

"Afterwards a lot of the children told their parents how much they had enjoyed the day at the care home and wanted to visit at the weekend.

"Now they are looking forward to returning and performing a little something for everyone."

Skelmersdale chosen as one of areas to benefit from £470k health investment

Report by **Henry James**

SKELMERSDALE has been chosen to benefit from a scheme which will see nearly half a million pounds spent in local communities across Lancashire and South Cumbria, tackling the factors which have the greatest impact on people's health.

The £471,000 investment from NHS England will be used to design better care around communities' needs, a priority described in the NHS Long Term Plan.

Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria has also been selected as one of four places in the country to receive nationally and internationally-recognised expertise to drive this forward.

This will see work in areas, including Skelmersdale and Chorley - as well as Barrow, Blackpool and Burnley - to look at how data and intelligence can be better used by GPs and community services to help people live longer, healthier lives.

One example is using data to identify people who have multiple long-term conditions and understanding the ways in which they can be supported to prevent complications and live independently. This approach will be developed across Lancashire and South Cumbria to make a real difference to people's lives.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, senior responsible officer for population health for Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria, said: "This type of population health management is more than just prevention, it's a new way of working which will see us using our data intelligently to provide personalised care to improve the lives of the 1.7 million people who live in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

NHS England's medical director for Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria, Dr Kieran Murphy.

"This extra funding from NHS England is going to allow us to really focus in on what makes a difference to people's lives in these communities, but then learning from that to improve health across the rest of the area."

Dr Kieran Murphy, medical director for NHS England (Lancashire and South Cumbria) added: "The NHS Long Term Plan sets out a renewed focus on prevention including action to help people live healthier lives, which will stop thousands of people developing life threatening or limiting conditions.

"Addressing the specific health problems which affect different communities in our society is not just about fairness but a matter of hard-headed economics.

"Integrated care systems such as Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria are central to the delivery and implementation of this ambition."

Factors

Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria, which is a partnership of local authority, NHS, public sector and communities, is one of four areas in the country to be recognised as leading the way in starting to improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and address the broad range of individual, social and economic factors affecting the health of local people.

Taking a whole population approach means working collaboratively beyond the boundaries of health and care services to support people to stay healthy and avoid complications from existing illnesses. This is one of the key new ways of working outlined in the NHS Long Term Plan, published earlier this month. It will enable care to be delivered in the right place and at the right time for local people and their families.

Head keen to highlight positives in Ofsted report

...and MP praises efforts of staff during 'a challenging period'

Report by **Henry James**

Headteacher at Lathom High School, Jane Galbraith.

THE headteacher of Lathom High says she is "incredibly proud" of a number of positives highlighted in the school's recent Ofsted report - despite inspectors issuing a second successive 'requires improvement' finding.

Officials of the government watchdog visited the Glenburn Road site in December and although listing a number of areas in which progress had been made since the 2016 report, their overall conclusion was that further improvement was still required.

Despite that, head Jane Galbraith was keen to point out that "real improvements" in the school had been mentioned on almost every page of the report.

It found that staff showed good judgement when dealing with the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils, while Mrs Galbraith added that the report said that the quality of teaching is improving "considerably."

The inspectors also referred to leadership at the school having been strengthened at every level; attendance improving rapidly; and good behaviour. In addition, the school was described as having a calm atmosphere; pupils were found to be self-assured and keen to do well; and staff were said to foster a really strong and supportive relationship with the students.

Aspirations

Mrs Galbraith said: "From my point of view I am incredibly proud of the number of positive findings in this report. I think it really reflects the journey of improvement that the school has been on across these last two years, and the short space of time since we were last visited by Ofsted.

"I think the improvements reflect our aspirations for the young people in Skelmersdale."

The inspectors said they wanted to see good practice shared everywhere in the school and every child fulfilling their potential.

Asked what the school must do to improve its overall rating, Mrs Galbraith responded: "We have to continue the work we have started and maintain the high aspirations and expectations of everybody. This is a journey that we have started and it is one that we must continue until any weaknesses are eradicated."

Meanwhile West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has also commented on the school's latest Ofsted report.

She said: "It is clear from the report that the school still requires improvement, but it is heartening to hear of the progress being made in many areas, and an overall rating of good for personal development, behaviour and welfare.

"Education in Skelmersdale has gone through a challenging period in recent years, most notably with the terrible decision to close Glenburn.

"Reading how the leadership of the school has been strengthened, the quality of teaching has improved, the support from a highly-effective pastoral system and good behaviour all points to a school working hard to improve its standards and going in the right direction.

"I commend Jane and her team for the work and effort they have put in to ensure Skelmersdale continues to have access to non-denominational high school provision, and congratulations to the pupils and parents who have contributed to a positive Ofsted report."

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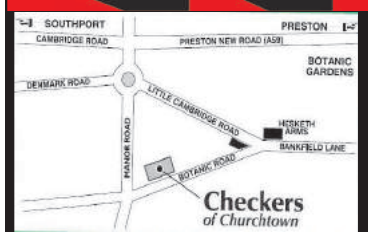

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Plans for new all-age 5k parkrun revealed

As junior event celebrates second anniversary organisers aim to capitalise on wave of enthusiasm to create Saturday course taking in Tawd Valley

THE New Year has seen a new wave of enthusiasm for running in the Skelmersdale area and plans are being made for an even healthier running scene, open to all, for 2019.

Alongside the Skelmersdale Boundary Harriers, featured in the Champion last week, the town's junior parkrun has just celebrated two years of weekly 2km runs for children aged between four and 14, while plans for a new 5km parkrun for all ages are being finalised.

The junior parkrun starts next to Skelmersdale library every Sunday of the year (except when the pathways are iced over) and has attracted a loyal following since its inception.

Organisers were delighted at the recent birthday award celebration to welcome Tiffany Penfold, the teenage running star from Edge Hill University, who a week earlier had helped the UK under-20s team to win gold at the European Cross Country Championships in Holland.

Run director, Alison Makin said: "It was great to have Tiff with us to present the annual awards. She's just five years older than some of our runners and I know that they will draw real inspiration from her success this season, going from relative unknown on the running circuit to European champion in a matter of weeks.

"We're hoping that the children of Woodland Community Primary School, many of whom run at parkrun on Sundays, will emulate her success when they compete for West Lancashire in the forthcoming Lancashire Schools Games."

European Cross Country under-20s team gold medallist, Tiffany Penfold, presents a certificate to one of the junior parkrunners.

However, organisers are keen to emphasise that junior parkrun is not just for the speedsters. They welcome all children from four to 14, accompanied by adults if they wish, to their fully-marshalled event, to run, jog, walk or even dance the course!

As another addition to the town's burgeoning running schedule, parkrun organisers are planning for a new 5k event to run on Saturdays starting at 9am, also from the library, and making use of recent and planned improvements to the Tawd Valley Country Park.

Paul Cotterill, lead organiser for the new event, said: "The Ormskirk parkrun at Edge Hill University has been running nearly five years now and has been a huge success with average attendance of 300 people a week of all different ages, size, shape and speed.

"While the Skelmersdale event will be a very different kind of course, taking in both the town centre plus the ever-improving Tawd Valley Country Park, we expect to develop the same ethos - friendly, fun, for everyone.

"We will be ready to go by early spring, and are keen to speak to anyone who wants to help out. Just email skelmersdale-juniors@parkrun.com for details of plans or follow the junior parkrun Facebook page till we set up the adult one.

"Ultimately, the ambition of colleagues involved in developing running in the town is that while Skelmersdale will always be a footie-mad town, we'll also become known as a 'running town'"

Skelmersdale Library event co-ordinator, Cassie Horner (right), with pupils from Crow Orchard School and headteacher, Ann Hedges (left) and deputy, Denise Heath, looking at the school archives which featured in the community history exhibition.

Library community history event showcases memorabilia from town's oldest school

PUPILS and staff from the town's oldest school, Crow Orchard Primary, joined members of the public to take a peep into the past when the school archives went on display at Skelmersdale Library on Saturday, January 19.

Formerly known as the 'Endowed School', the school building on School Lane is believed to be the oldest in Skelmersdale and has been a site for the education of children of all ages at different periods in its history dating back to 1732.

Among the items on display at the library in Southway were a large collection of the school's logbooks, photographs and an old 'punishment book'.

The present school choir also attended, singing and sharing their experiences of the school today, while The Friends of Skelmersdale Library group provided refreshments.

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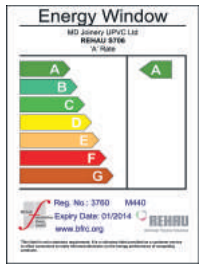

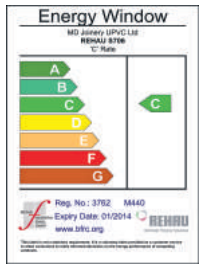

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Resident says CCTV is failing to deter students' antisocial behaviour

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN Ormskirk resident has challenged claims by West Lancs Council that its CCTV coverage has been successful in tackling antisocial behaviour in the borough.

In December the Champion reported how the authority said it was working hard with its partners to ensure residents were safe in the run-up to Christmas with the help of CCTV cameras which are monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Heidi McDougall, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairperson, stated: "The council's CCTV system is a powerful tool that will assist in not only preventing crime, but also enable the skilled operators to identify the small minority who are intent on committing crime or anti-social behaviour."

However, Adrian McClenaghan who lives near to the Edge Hill University campus, says his personal experience paints a different picture prompting him to submit a Community Trigger to the council. (Also known as ASB Case Review, a Community Trigger is a new tool aimed at helping victims who have reported antisocial behaviour to the relevant authorities but still suffer as agencies either fail to explain what they are doing to tackle it or are doing nothing).

He told the Champion: said: "I read with interest your piece in relation to CCTV and the claim that it is being used to combat antisocial behaviour in Ormskirk - here in St Helens Road our experience is far from that portrayed by the council!

"Since September we have been plagued with antisocial behaviour by students going to and from Ormskirk town centre, many times up until 4am on a weeknight.

"It's got so bad that I have submitted a Community Trigger to the council, as the issue has been ignored by them, the police, and the university, but they have not met the time scales they are committed to when dealing with the submission.

St Helens Road, which leads from the town centre to the university, is plagued by student antisocial behaviour, says resident.

"People might think I am being over-sensitive about a few students having a bit of fun but if you saw what we've been dealing with I think you would be shocked.

"I started to video them to get our point across as without evidence the council and police weren't interested but even now they won't take any action while Edge Hill just deny there is an issue."

Adrian's videos, which he has uploaded to YouTube, show variously groups of students shouting, arguing and singing loudly between 10.30p and 2.30am.

Issues

Sergeant Bill Matthews of Ormskirk Police said: "I am aware that a Community Trigger has been activated and this is being led by West Lancashire Council regarding the matter. The police will be assisting with their enquiries.

"I would like to add that 2018 has been a successful year for the police in reducing ASB around Edge Hill. We will continue to work with the university throughout 2019 and beyond to promote better relationships between it and residents."

A spokesperson for West Lancs Council commented: "The council and the police have previously met with this resident to discuss his concerns and since receiving the Community Trigger application have taken steps to meet with partners and inform the resident of the process, including time scales, to be followed in line with the council's policy.

"The council's 106 CCTV cameras are used effectively in response to crime and disorder issues across West Lancashire and CCTV operators prioritise monitoring based on operational requirements."

An Edge Hill University spokesperson said: "Edge Hill is a member of West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership, which is committed to multi-agency problem-solving delivering balanced and comprehensive solutions to tackle anti-social behaviour.

"We work with our immediate neighbours and the local community to proactively support and integrate students into Ormskirk and we ask students to respect the needs of the local community.

"The university takes the matter of complaints very seriously and we are committed to following up every incident reported where sufficient detail is provided, and where the individual or individuals involved are students of the university.

"Following a complaint received from a neighbour in November last year we met with residents and then ran a specific student campaign.

"Our immediate neighbours also benefit from the Campus Support Team who are on hand 24 hours a day seven days a week to ensure student safety and compliance with campus policies and procedures.

"The university has no statutory powers off-campus."

Plan for cycle path between rail and bus stations approved

A NEW cycle pathway between Ormskirk's rail and bus stations is among the infrastructure and community improvement projects approved by West Lancs Council's cabinet, with work on the project expected to begin before August.

Following reports by director of development and regeneration, John Harrison, the authority cabinet has agreed that £50,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) money from the Ormskirk area be spent on the improvements to the town's signal co-ordination for gyratory traffic.

Mr Harrison says this will "improve flow of traffic around the town centre gyratory and so create capacity, thus managing congestion better and reducing delays in journey time."

In addition, £53,000 of CIL money will be spent on a cycle and pedestrian link between Ormskirk's railway and bus stations.

Mr Harrison said: "The proposal is seen as a way of improving safer and more sustainable access for students, employees and visitors to access the Edge Hill University campus from Ormskirk rail and bus stations and from Ormskirk town centre in general."

The route has been broken down into two sections, with the borough council taking over the design, construction and management of the first phase, between the railway station and bus station, and the county council taking responsibility for the second, more complex phase which is still under consideration.

Mr Harrison's report to the cabinet stated that £356k has already been set aside for the whole cycleway project, raised by S106 payments linked to developments on the university campus.

The county council has also committed £325k of funding.

Along with the £53K in CIL funding, the cabinet also agreed £80,000 of the S106 monies should be allocated to the construction and delivery of the shared-use path.

Mr Harrison said he hoped the authority would tender for and appoint a contractor before the end of April, with work planned to take place as soon as possible, but no later than August 2019.

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Princess Royal performs official opening ceremony for Edge Hill University's £27m Catalyst building

EDGE Hill University's £27m Catalyst building has been given the royal seal of approval by Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne.

The Princess Royal officially opened the state-of-the art facility, which houses the university's library, careers and student services functions, in a ceremony on Friday, January 18.

The royal guest toured the building and chatted with students a and staff, as well as key personnel involved in the building's development and construction.

During her visit, she also learned about research work in the biology department which focuses on the eradication of major global health threats. This includes work on insecticide resistance in mosquitoes and research aimed at developing new antibiotics from strains of streptomyces bacteria.

Professor Clare Austin, the university's director of medical education, gave the princess an overview of Edge Hill Medical School, which will train undergraduates from 2020 with a foundation year starting this year.

And Professor Helen Newall, presented *Remember Me*, a multimedia art installation which exploresthe fragmentation of memory and identity in the context of the First World War.

In addition, the princess examined a selection of items relating to the university's history and links with the suffragette movement in the archive; viewed demonstrations by the student wellbeing and campus life teams; and met student volunteers, scholarship winners and alumni. She also saw a rehearsal of a suffragette-themed play and learned about the university's work with Tate Liverpool.

Princess Anne officially opens the Catalyst at Edge Hill University.

Proud

Edge Hill vice-chancellor, Dr John Cater, said: "The university is exceedingly proud of our iconic, state-of-the-art, Catalyst building which is transforming learning and support opportunities for over ten thousand students and we're exceedingly proud that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, kindly and generously agreed to formally open this stunning facility."

The Catalyst building has brought together several of Edge Hill's student-facing teams for the first time, giving them a prominent and highly visible presence at the heart of the campus.

The 8,000 square-metre space provides a 50 per cent increase in study spaces and houses 230,000 books on 5,000 shelves, while its 24-hour opening gives students improved access to services.

Confidential interview spaces, meeting areas, group rooms and waiting areas have been designed to ensure users receive the best possible service and experience. An event space and new facilities allows the Careers Service to showcase job opportunities and host employer events alongside mock interviews, CV workshops and ongoing career advice and support.

Jacqui Howe, head of careers, said: "Since we moved into Catalyst we've seen an increase in the uptake of our services by students and increased engagement. As it houses the library, the building has a huge footfall and more students are dropping in to see us than ever before.

"We're delighted that Her Royal Highness has met some of our fantastic volunteers today as volunteering is one of the main ways we help new students settle into university and the wider community. It not only gives them real transferable skills but also helps them make friends and grow in confidence."

A keen horsewoman who competed at the 1976 Olympics in the equestrian three-day event, Princess Anne had planned a visit to Parbold Equestrian Centre on the same day but this was cancelled due to "adverse weather conditions", according to Buckingham Palace,

Carrie Byrom, from the centre in Bradshaw Lane, said: "We were disappointed at the late cancellation but we came together as a team anyway with children that work with us from the British Horse Society scheme Changing Lives Through Horses and the Soul Childrens Choir.

"The visit will be reorganised."

The Princess Royal chats to students, staff and alumni during her tour of Edge Hill University.

The youngsters from St Thomas The Martyr who took part in the Lancashire Schools Fantastic Book Awards competition

Primary pupils' 'Fantastic' triumph in county book awards competition

MEMBERS of the Reading Club at St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School, Up Holland took part in the Lancashire Schools Fantastic Book Awards competition and came up trumps with the overall winner!

The Year 6 pupils created their very own diorama - a miniature, three-dimensional scene displayed inside a box - based on the different FBA book titles.

Headteacher, Carl Roscoe, said: "All of the children tried extremely hard to create their scenes in Miss Pugh's after-school club and as a result of their attention to detail one child won the competition!"

The winner created a unique scene based on the book, Letters from the Lighthouse, depicting a miniature lighthouse, complete with a battery-powered tea candle, loccated on a rocky cliff with many letters flying around in the wind.

Mr Roscoe added: "Well done to all of our children who entered and won the hamper of 30 brand-new fiction books!"

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Port operator to invest £300,000 in training partnership with West Lancashire College

Report by **Henry James**

Andrew Jones of Peel Ports pictured during a session with students at West Lancashire College.

PEEL Ports, one of the UK's largest port operators with sites in a number of locations nationwide including Liverpool, is to invest in the region of £300,000 this year via the apprenticeship levy to train about 100 existing staff in partnership with West Lancashire College.

The new intake marks a five-fold increase in staff being put through vocational education, with just 19 employees being trained in 2018.

The training will cover subjects ranging from leadership to port operations and will involve workers from the company's locations in Liverpool, Manchester, Heysham and, eventually, Sheerness and Great Yarmouth.

The investment is part a wider programme of professional development that will see nearly 10% of the entire Peel Ports workforce of 1,600 taking part in additional learning throughout 2019.

Much of the training is being delivered with West Lancashire College, although Peel Ports also retains strong links with a range of education providers in the Liverpool city region.

Peel Ports' chief executive Mark Whitworth, who was recently appointed chair of the Skelmersdale Place Board which aims to promote the town and attract investment, said: "It's always been clear to me that we must invest in our next generation of talent, as they will deliver and lead our services in years to come.

"I'm very proud of the support we are providing these apprentices and even happier that so many of them have made such a commitment to their own personal development."

Over the last year Peel Ports has continued to grow, increasing its headcount by nearly 10%.

It has also transferred-in more than 300 agency staff, underpinned by a new three-year pay deal and enhanced terms and conditions that will improve their work-life balance and improve financial security for them and their families.

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Man,24, on affray charge

A 24-YEAR-old man from Burscough is one of three charged with affray in connection with an incident in Southport town centre in 2017.

Jake Morton, of Elm Road, pleaded not guilty when he appeared at Sefton Magistrates Court on January 16.

Co-accused Bradleigh Lomax, 24, of Lynton Drive, Birkdale, also pleaded not guilty, while 24-year-old Sam Buckler, of Windsor Road, Southport, entered no plea.

The trio are charged that on November 19, 2017 at Eastbank Street Square, Southport, each used or threatened unlawful violence towards another and their conduct was such as would cause a person of reasonable firmness present to fear for their personal safety

Granting them unconditional bail, the magistrates referred the case to Liverpool Crown Court for a plea and trial preparation hearing on February 13.

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Green light for Lidl store and homes plan

Proposed scheme to include six retail units as well

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A computer image of the proposed Lidl store at Atkinson Road.

PLANS to build a new Lidl supermarket and affordable housing development on the outskirts of Ormskirk town centre are set to be given the go-ahead.

West Lancs Council planning committee delegated the decision to approve the development to the authority's director of development and regeneration, John Harrison who had already recommended approval.

German discount supermarket giant Lidl has submitted a combined application with Citypark Projects Ltd. and Chorley Community Housing to build a store, 51 homes and a terrace of six business units on the former Atkinson Kirby site on Atkinson Road, off Hattersley Way.

Lidl, which has more than 700 stores in the UK, says the new outlet will create around 40 full and part-time jobs.

The residential development will comprise 20 one-bedroom apartments, 10 of which will be suitable for older persons; 10 semi-detached three-bedroom houses; and 21 semi-detached and terraced two-bedroom houses.

Owned and managed by Chorley Community Housing, the applicants say they will all be 'affordable' dwellings available for rent

The six business units will be available for non-food retail, offices and trade counter businesses.

Benefits

In his report to the planning committee on January 10, Mr Harrison said that though the development goes against Local Plan guidelines, due to taking up employment space, he believed the benefits of the mixed-use development would outweigh the harm, by providing employment and contributing towards meeting housing targets.

The decision to approve the plans was delegated to Mr Harrison "in consultation with the chairman or vice-chairman of the committee subject to a planning obligation under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 being entered into".

After timber flooring manufacturer, Atkinson Kirby moved out of the site in 2015 the buildings were demolished in 2016 following a period of theft, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

● AN application on behalf of Jones Homes to build 25 homes and four apartments on land to the west of Oasis Close in Rufford has been deferred to allow for further discussions with Lancashire County Council regarding highway safety aspects of the proposal.

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Britain's Mind Hunter Visits College

As part of their Open Evening on the 31st of January West Lancashire College have secured the support of one of Britain's leading criminal experts.

Paul Harrison, a former UK Police Officer who worked closely with the FBI's Behavioural Science Unit at Quantico, is taking students and visitors through a unique crime scene analysis live at the College.

If you are interested, or know someone who is interested in a career in Law, Psychology, Public Services or Forensic Science then this is a perfect event for you. With over four decades experience as a criminal profiler Paul has gained a unique and remarkable insight into the minds of some of the world's most violent criminals, serial killers and murderers.

Paul is now an accomplished crime writer penning both fiction and non-fiction books. His book Mind Games is a best seller and has been reviewed by Martina Cole as 'profiling at its best, Paul Harrison is the master of the true crime genre.'

During the Open Evening, which takes place 5pm-8pm, Paul, along with West Lancashire College staff, will be leading visitors through a bespoke crime scene that has been created especially for the Open Event. As a leading crime expert Paul will be able to give visitors a unique insight into the Police and profilers work on crime scenes.

In addition to this, Paul is also going to deliver his Interviews with Serial Killers show to students and members of the general public between 7.30pm and 9pm. This is a truly eye-opening and entertaining talk, which covers twelve stories and interviews. Accompanied by a visual presentation, covering the history of the individual crimes, and the killer's stories in their own words. If you would like a ticket for the *Interviews with Serial Killers* show, they are available free of charge via eventbrite.co.uk

For further details about the show or to find out more about the College Open Event, please contact College Enquiries on 01695 52300, between the hours of 9.15am and 4.30pm, Monday to Friday.

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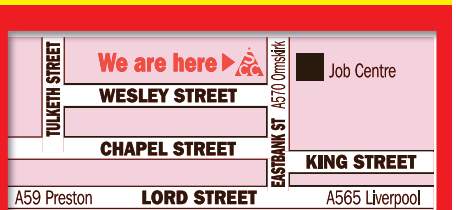

Specialist mental health service to support new and expectant mums

NEW and expectant mums who are experiencing perinatal mental health problems can now access assessments and care through a new specialist community service team operating across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

The new service will offer psychiatric and psychological assessments and care for women with complex or severe mental health problems during pregnancy and up to one year after giving birth.

It will also provide pre-conception advice for women with a current or past severe mental illness who are planning a pregnancy.

Dr Ayesha Rahim, perinatal psychiatrist at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Ayesha Rahim, perinatal psychiatrist at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are really pleased to be launching this specialist community perinatal mental health service in Lancashire and South Cumbria. The service will mean that women who are experiencing perinatal mental health problems but do not require hospital admission, can access high-quality care, support and treatment in the community at a location that suits them.

"Late last year we launched the first part of this exciting development, which was Ribblemere Mother and Baby Unit and outreach service based in Chorley. The opening of Ribblemere has been really positive and we are excited to be providing a complimentary specialist community perinatal mental health service to even more mums who are in need of support."

The team will be made up of a variety of different health professionals with specialist training, including psychiatrists, mental health practitioners, psychologists, occupational therapists, nursery nurses and dedicated administrators who will work together to provide a comprehensive service to mums and their infants, depending on their individual needs.

The service is being launched in phases beginning this month (January). For more information about the trust's specialist perinatal mental health service visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/perinatal-mental-health.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

New Local Plan is a positive game-changer with its long-term, holistic approach

IN reply to recent letters regarding the Local Plan by P. Poole, Very Concerned Resident, Dave and S.W.

It is a legal requirement to have an up-to-date Local Plan and because of huge changes to the National Planning Policy Framework councils now have to adapt to these changes or risk having development by appeal. We do not have the luxury of a do-nothing stance, hence the current review action we are taking.

A longer-term holistic plan, to be reviewed on an on-going basis, requires Master Planning to factor for schools, doctors' surgeries, employment areas, major road networks and bypasses etc. in consultation with the appropriate bodies to provide a strategic overview that will deliver the improvements that West Lancs will need as the borough grows and develops.

On major sites the Master Planning process itself, will take several years before the developments come into fruition. Short-term plans would miss out on the Master Planning but would still generate the same consequences for the borough but without that vital strategic overview.

Planning for our borough, which has one of the highest percentages of green belt in the country, inevitably means the release of some of that, as in previous plans. But only releasing 1.7% over 30 years, by sensible planning in areas identified most suitable geographically and strategically and taking all brownfield sites into consideration, this new local plan will ensure by 2050 we will still have retained more than 88.5% of the green belt.

Edge Hill University's plans for student accommodation will provide fit-for-purpose on-site rooms and release HMOs in Ormskirk back onto the market for family homes.

The new Local Plan has taken more than two years to come to fruition through intensive, extensive research and evidence-gathering, looking at the future needs across the whole borough. It is complex and far-reaching and the officers at WLBC should be commended for their excellent drafting of the preferred options.

Find all the evidence here: https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/the-local-plan/local-plan-review/evidence-base.aspx

Far from being one 'individual' project, it is the council in conjunction with all of the statutory agencies, businesses, the public, and many organisations who have been encouraged to engage with and have input into this procedure with all views being genuinely listened to. There will be the chance for further input later on when the draft Local plan is published.

Councillor Gail Hodson.

Proposed Bickerstaffe developments will exacerbate 'traffic nightmare'

A NEW Year! Full of optimism, I sincerely hope that 2019 will be the year the council will actually listen to residents regarding their concerns and objections to the Local Plan Preferred Options - and not merely ignore and over-ride said comments by doing precisely what they set out to do in the first place!

I would like to make your readers aware of the very real proposal in the pipeline to build a large warehouse/distribution centre and technology park in the vicinity of Junction 3 of the M58 in Bickerstaffe.

This proposal if approved will result not only in the loss of green belt and Grade A agricultural land, but the demolition of farmhouses and buildings, the loss of farmworkers' jobs and the very real threat of Compulsory Purchase Orders on surrounding homes and land!

This area of Bickerstaffe is already extremely busy as traffic from several areas converge at Four Lane Ends roundabout where there is always queuing traffic, especially at peak times. This 'traffic nightmare' is exacerbated by motorists using Starbucks, Subway and the 24 hour petrol station.

Why choose Bickerstaffe for this huge development when Skelmersdale is crying out for regeneration and development of this type is ideally suited to land close to Junction 4 and the White Moss Business Park? The answer is simple - because landowners and developers etc. will make a 'shed-load' of money by building in Bickerstaffe!

If this development is approved it will impact not only on Bickerstaffe residents but everyone else who uses the M58, Rainford bypass and East Lancs Road, not to mention all other roads to and from Ormskirk, Burscough, etc. The impact on the roads and infrastructure will be mind-blowing!

I would urge residents who, after reading this letter, have concerns regarding this development, to pass on their views to their elected councillor before it is too late. The vultures are already circling!

Linda Mathie, by email.

The people of Skem deserve more than just ***more*** houses!

FOR many weeks I have been reading letters from residents complaining about houses been built in their villages.

It seems that it is acceptable to build as many houses as possible in Skelmersdale and use up all our beautiful green spaces and fields, because our land is cheaper than yours and your soil seems to be of better quality.

Well, NO! As a Skelmersdale resident I would point out we also do not have the infrastructure - our schools are overcrowded, it's impossible to get a doctor's appointment and our roads can't cope with all the HG's.

We have been promised so much but all we seem to be getting is more and more houses.

Skelmersdale and its people do matter but once again we have been let down.

Proud Skelmersdale resident.

Have you really had your say?

WITH regards to the Local Plan Preferred Options, I wonder have you really had your say?

If you submitted a representation by post or email to WLBC, it will be copied and pasted into a software package which, in some cases, is misreading letters and numbers.

When your representation is acknowledged by email there will be a link to your pdf copy, which can be opened and compared with your original representation for any copying errors.

If you sent your representation by post and did not or could not provide an email address, you will be unable to do this.

If you have Internet access, representations can be viewed at westlancs.citizenspace.com.

West Lancashire resident by email.

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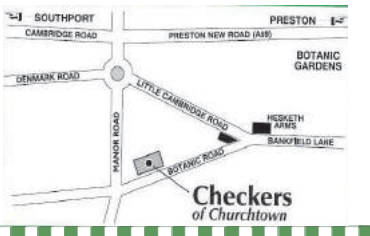

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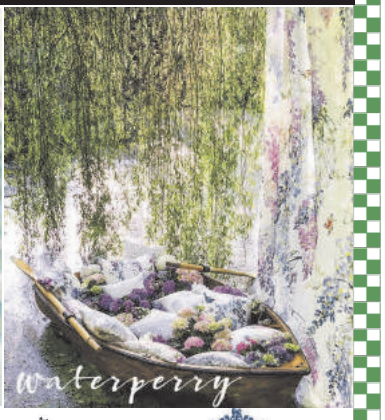

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Victoria Park homes plan will increase flood risk

IN response to the front page story 'Development director's thumbs-up for Victoria Park homes plan (Champion, January 9) Burscough Flooding Group still objects to the development because it will cause additional flooding downstream in the Crabtree Lane area, when any increase in risk in this area is likely to cause homes to become uninhabitable.

Taken at face value, WLBC's reassurance that the surface water from the Victoria Park housing development won't exceed that at present was reassuring.

However, what WLBC omitted to say is that whilst the surface water flow from the site isn't going to increase, the overall volume will be increased and all of the flow will be diverted from United Utilities foul sewer, where it goes currently, into a local watercourse.

That considerable extra flow will add to the already serious flooding in Crabtree Lane at a maximum rate of 25 tonnes/hour.

In essence, WLBC have accepted a developer's proposal to remove a flow from the sewer and no doubt improve sewer flooding but allowed them to add a larger flow to the watercourses increasing flooding because the developer said the alternative proposals, weren't practical.

It is hard to understand how yet another scheme increasing flooding in Burscough has passed planning.

Gavin Rattray, Secretary, Burscough Flooding Group.

When are the litter louts going to be prosecuted?

I WALK my dog several times a day and am appalled to see that dog owners do actually bag up their dog waste for the most part then just discard it, particularly in walkways and entries.

This is disgusting as there are dog waste bins if you care to look, as I do.

Another thing which is really annoying is to see the amount of elastic bands which are discarded by post delivery personnel, small enough to put in pockets and either be re-used or binned.

Also I am afraid BT Openreach ought to be taken to task. Areas where they have worked on their green connection boxes are always littered with discarded remnants of plastic-coated coloured wire.

Apart from looking bad this is quite dangerous to the pads of dogs walking over the wire-littered area. Why do they not clear up?

It is obvious who the offenders of the last two items are but do we ever hear of them being prosecuted? I think not.

Celia Fairhurst, Skelmersdale.

M58 tragedy highlights need for better hospital provision

THE tragic accident on the M58 should be the catalyst for our MP to push for a better NHS hospital service.

4.7miles from Ormskirk Hospital and less than one mile from Skelmersdale (pop. 38, 000) and four air ambulance trips were needed.

Don't really need to add anything to that.

David Symons, Ashurst.

Leaflet about supporting local business was printed in Yorkshire!

AS part of their campaign for the Local Plan, some weeks ago the Labour party pushed a leaflet through my letterbox.

One of the measures proposed is to provide new purpose-built student accommodation,which they say would contribute to the local economy and 'support Ormskirk town centre businesses.'

If Labour is so concerned about support for local business why was the leaflet they distributed printed in Rotherham, Yorkshire?

R.J., Westhead.

PICTURE of the week

A Champion in the making ... two-year-old Rocco at home in the ring at an open day event to celebrate the re-launch and refurbishment of the Birch Green Amateur Boxing Club in Skelmersdale after a fire a forced the gym to close for 18 months.
Picture by Martyn Snape.

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Attempted murder guilty plea

A FORMER parish councillor has admitted trying to kill his ex-wife.

Mark Gibbons, 62, of Bold Lane, Aughton, was arrested on July 23 last year after mounting the pavement on Aughton Street, Ormskirk, in his Citroen DS3 and injuring Dr Julia Woolgar.

Gibbons changed his plea to guilty to attempted murder on the first day of his trial at Preston Crown Court on Wednesday, January 16.

He was remanded in custody and will be sentenced on Monday, March 18.

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The Newburgh School and Nursery youngsters who took part in the activities.

Nursery and school win awards for embracing the great outdoors

NEWBURGH Foundation Stage (Newburgh Nursery and Newburgh School Reception Class) are delighted to have been awarded the Lancashire Quality Award for Making The Most Of The Outdoors.

In addition, Newburgh School and Newburgh Nursery have also been awarded the RSPB Wild Challenge Silver Award.

The awards highlight the importance of outdoor education at Newburgh Nursery and Newburgh School.

To gain the Quality Award for Making the Most Of The Outdoors staff, children, parents and the PTA worked together to ensure that all children have the opportunity to experience and enjoy the essential and special nature of being outdoors.

Sharon Duthie, early years foundation stage leader at the school, said: "The decision was taken to enhance our outdoor provision by removing as many plastic resources as possible in favour of natural, recycled items.

"While budgets are tight we have been inventive and resourceful, making use of donations of old Christmas trees, wooden pallets, pots and pans etc.

Challenges

"Staff even spent weekend walks collecting pebbles, pine cones and sticks! We make the most of moveable resources such as ladders, planks of wood and crates (kindly provided by the PTA) for children to create bridges, obstacle courses, pirate ships and dens!"

To gain the RSPB award children had to complete six challenges to Help Nature and six challenges to Experience Nature.

Ms Duthie added: "We are currently continuing the good work to obtain the Gold Award.

"At Newburgh Nursery and Newburgh School we try to ensure children get outdoors every day whatever the weather. We have wellies, warm clothes, waterproof trousers, coats and sun cream.

"We have Forest School every Friday afternoon for nursery and reception children and we are joined alternately by Year 1 and Year 2.

"During Forest School we may build dens, have campfires, worm charm or collect autumn leaves to make a crown amongst many other activities.

"Fundamentally we work towards ensuring all our children get to experience and enjoy the great outdoors."

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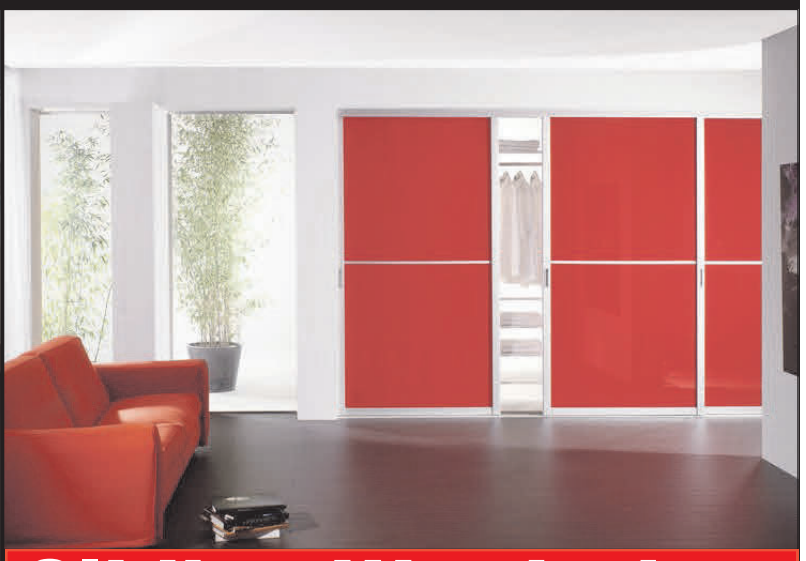

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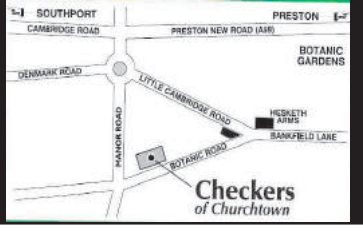

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New members welcome to join ramblers group

OFFICIALS of a rambling group are looking to recruit new members.

The Liverpool Catholic Rambling Association (LCRA), which is open to all, organises regular Sunday coach rambles with walks to suit all abilities.

Coach pick-up points include Old Roan and Junction 3 of the M58 at Bickerstaffe.

Next destination is Baslow in Derbyshire on Sunday, January 27 when there will be an opportunity to enjoy the stunning Peak District scenery and visit Chatsworth House stately home.

Then on Sunday, February 17 the group will be heading to Ambleside in the Lake District, taking in great views over Lake Windermere and the Lakeland fells.

For more information call Will on 0151 486 6541; find them on Facebook; or visit the website at liverpoolcatholicramblers.com.

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County's police recognised for promotion of inclusivity and difference at work

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE Police has been named 36th on the Stonewall 2019 Top 100 Employers list for their work to promote inclusivity and difference across the force - up 38 places from 74th last year.

Welcoming the results, officially announced on Monday (January 21), deputy chief constable, Sunita Gamblin, said: "Policing is incredibly rewarding and it is a privilege to work in such a public service. Consequently, our staff, officers and volunteers recognise that they have a huge impact on others, and can achieve an indelible positive impact on people's lives.

"It is absolutely vital that a modern police force should be leading the way in terms of having an inclusive mindset, so valuing and seeking out different perspectives is an absolute priority. This is how we really see growth and success, ultimately reflecting the diverse communities we serve.

"Being 74th on the list was a great achievement last year, but the fact that we have jumped to 36th place this year demonstrates how serious we are about improving and it is testament to the hard work which is ongoing every day to maintain high standards of inclusivity within our workforce.

"We are immensely proud of the work we have done and remain committed to valuing difference, recognising and embracing a diverse workforce, to impact on keeping people both safe and feeling safe."

Sunita Gamblin, deputy chief constable at Lancashire Police.

The force were assessed on nine specific areas including leadership, engagement, policies and employee life cycle.

Lancashire Police's LGBT staff network, chaired by PC Anna Robinson and vice-chaired by Sergeant James Cooper, were named as a 'Highly Commended Network Group', recognising years of continuous improvement, dedication and hard work of all network members over the years.

Stonewall was founded in 1989, and since then has been at the forefront of unprecedented social and legal advancement for lesbian, gay and bisexual people living in Britain. In 2015 it extended its remit to campaign for trans equality.

This year 445 employers submitted entries to the 2019 index, across the public, private and third sectors. Stonewall received more than 92,000 responses to the staff survey, making it one of the largest national employment surveys in Britain, with 17,300 LGBT respondents.

Impact

Darren Towers, Stonewall's executive director, said: "Lancashire Police and all those who have made this year's Top 100 Employers list are making a huge difference to workplaces, services and communities across the UK. LGBT-inclusive employers play a crucial role in changing society by using their power and influence to protect and support LGBT people.

"More than a third of LGBT staff (35 per cent) still hide their identity at work for fear of discrimination; that has an impact on productivity, wellbeing and more and shows we still have lots to do. However, with organisations like Lancashire Police displaying such a strong commitment to LGBT equality, we are one step closer to creating a world where all lesbian, gay, bi and trans employees are welcomed and accepted without exception."

Full results of the Top 100 Employers list can be found online at www.stonewall.org.uk.

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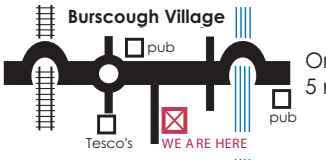

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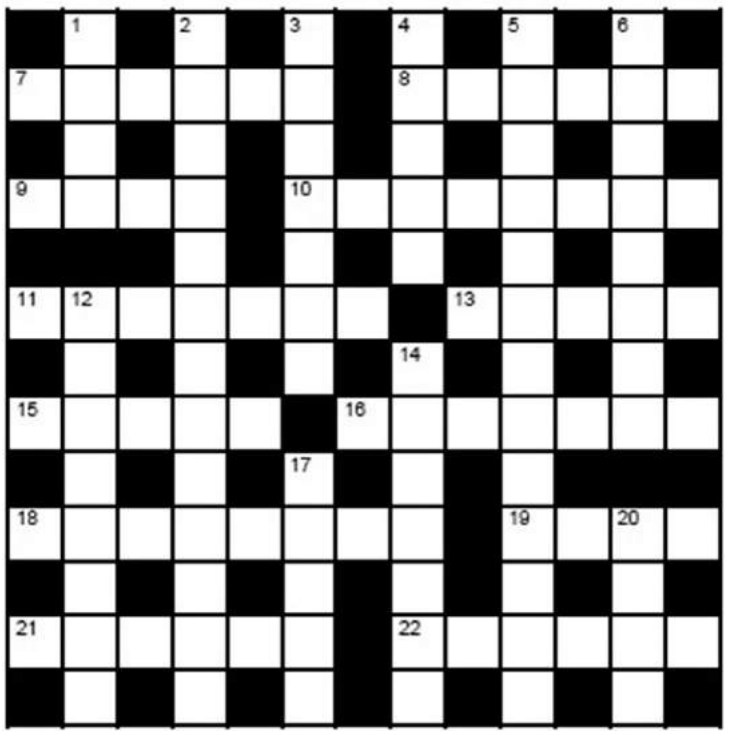

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Grease. 8. Tip-off. 9. Cure. 10. Agitator. 11. Gherkin. 13. Agate. 15. Glade. 17. Rainbow. 20. Fair game. 21. Sash. 22. Big cat. 23. Elapse

Down: 1. Trough. 2. Bare. 3. Gelatin. 4. Staid. 5. Spray gun. 6. Afloat. 12. Redirect. 14. Caterer. 16. Lead-in. 18. Obsess. 19. Sauté. 21. Scar.

ACROSS

7. A place where something happens or is set (6)
8. Frozen area typically found at the polar regions (3, 3)
9. Word or words by which a person or thing is known, addressed, or referred to (4)
10. Pertinent (8)
11. Fail to correctly identify something being said (7)
13. Private teacher, typically one who teaches a single pupil or a very small group (5)
15. Rascal (5)
16. The degree of compactness of a substance (7)
18. Friendly, good natured (8)
19. Opposite of hard (4)
21. Collective name for vegetables such as peas, beans, cabbage etc. (6)
22. A formally concluded and ratified agreement between states (6)

DOWN

1. Garment worn by citizens of ancient Rome (4)
2. Mock someone or something (4, 3, 6)
3. Withdrawal (7)
4. The name of a book (5)
5. The network of cells and fibres which transmits impulses between parts of the body (7, 6)
6. Mackintosh for instance (8)
12. Legal term for a hearing taking place with press and public excluded (2, 6)
14. An object kept as a reminder of a person or event (7)
17. Grossly fat or overweight (5)
20. White, salty Greek cheese made from the milk of ewes or goats (4)

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Could you provide a loving home for a child in care?

County council holds foster carers information evening

LANCASHIRE County Council is once again holding an information evening for anyone thinking about becoming a foster carer.

The event will be held tonight (Wednesday, January 23) at County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston, from 6 to 7.30pm.

Members of the county council's fostering team, as well as social workers and current foster carers, will be available to answer questions, talk people through the process, and offer advice.

The authority has increased the allowances payable to new foster carers, so now they can expect to receive between £241 and £300 per week for each child they care for. And people who may have considered fostering before but weren't sure they could afford it, are advised to go to find out if it could now be a viable option.

County Councillor Susie Charles, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "New Year is traditionally a time when people decide to make a change in their lives, give something up or start something new. I'd like to take advantage of that New Year frame of mind to encourage people to think about a change they could make, not just to their own life, but to that of a Lancashire child.

County Cllr. Susie Charles

"Becoming a foster carer is a big decision and we don't suggest anyone takes it lightly. But if anyone is wondering whether it might be for them, they can come along to the information evening to have a chat with our friendly staff without feeling pressurised or obligated in any way.

"With around 20 Lancashire children needing homes each week, we need to recruit new foster carers. We have increased our allowances to foster carers in recognition of their valuable role in providing loving homes for the children in our care. There is also a rising demand for placements with more children and young people coming into the care of the local authority each week.

"We are looking for people who can foster all ages of children, particularly siblings who need to stay together, and teenagers.

Support

"No formal experience or qualifications are needed, all we ask is that you have a spare room available and a desire to make a difference to a local child's life."

A package of support is available 24/7 to help foster carers in their role, including local support groups, their own social worker, a dedicated helpline and flexible training.

There is no need to book for the fostering information evening - you can just turn up but are asked to arrive early. Free parking is available on the Arthur Street car park, next to County Hall and the Pitt Street entrance is accessible for disabled people.

If you are interested but unable to attend on the night, call the fostering recruitment team on 0300 123 6723 or visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/fostering.

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Health chiefs say new primary networks will improve patient care

HEALTH chiefs at NHS England say that general practices across Lancashire are aiming to transform the way they work to improve services for patients.

They are teaming up as groups of practices with community service providers and other health and care organisations to form primary care networks.

The development of primary care networks was described in the NHS Long Term Plan published earlier this month as "key" to the transformation of primary care and community services.

Primary care networks will plan and deliver services for populations of 30,000 to 50,000 people, which will enable them to focus on health and wellbeing priorities. They aim to build on the core services currently available from GP surgeries, offering more care closer to home in communities rather than in hospitals and supporting patients with long-term conditions to better manage their own health.

By sharing resources, it is envisaged that primary care networks will be able to employ a broader range of staff, including newer roles like clinical pharmacists and physician associates. In addition, they may be able to extend services that are currently only available in one practice within their group to all patients or offer new services such as ultrasound and mental health therapy.

NHS England (Lancashire & South Cumbria) is investing £1.75m to support the development of primary care networks. Every practice across Lancashire and South Cumbria is included or linked to one of the 41 primary care networks that have been established.

With an ageing population and growing number of people living with long-term conditions like diabetes and heart disease, strengthening primary care services through the development of networks is seen as key to helping people to stay healthier for longer.

Healthier Lancashire & South Cumbria

Jackie Forshaw, head of primary care at NHS England (Lancashire & South Cumbria) said: "We are pleased with the progress that has been made by all of the primary care networks across our region. Though the networks are at different stages of their development, practices and community services have been keenly working together to be involved in this ground-up transformation.

"This will help primary care to be more sustainable and better able to continue to deliver high quality health services to the people they serve, now and for many years to come."

Working in this way is not new for all practices. Primary care networks have been growing in recent years but the funding boost is intended to support established networks and encourage new ones.

Dr Malcolm Ridgway, GP and Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria's senior responsible officer for primary care, added: "Working as a primary care network will offer practices the opportunity to care for the communities they serve in a more joined-up way. They will be able to offer more services like physiotherapy, ultrasound and mental health support close to home.

"In Lancashire and South Cumbria we are already ahead of the curve with every practice now part of a primary care network and starting to plan improved services with community colleagues. The NHS Long Term Plan will help to accelerate and build on this new way of working, improving the health and wellbeing of our population and the recruitment and retention of staff."

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Politicians have turned Brexit into a childish bun fight...

I TURNED my radio on last night and all I heard was news, views and interviews about the debacle that is Brexit.

Such a shame really.

On the day I heard we had voted in the referendum to leave the European Union I naively thought (as I reckon did many thousands of others) that this was a real chance for the resurgence of the United Kingdom - one able to make its own mistakes - and triumphs.

I reckoned, of course, without our politicians.

There is no way of knowing now what would have happened had we had a national leader who actually supported Brexit, or for that matter a leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition who cared more for his country than about becoming Prime Minister.

Instead we are where we are now - in the middle of nowhere!

Led by Theresa May, a Remainer who never fully got behind the idea of leaving, our negotiations with the EU got off on the wrong foot from the start.

Meanwhile Jeremy Corbyn, a closet Brexiteer if ever there was one, saw the whole exercise from the word 'go' as a chance to force a General Election and get his chance of glory and the keys to Number 10. We might end up out of Europe or we might not - either way good old Jeremy would be Prime Minister.

But even as things were, we might - just - have got away with some recognisable form of Brexit if MPs from both sides of the House had got on with the jobs they are supposed to be doing, fulfilling the stated wishes of the people, instead of following their own narrow interests and hiding behind facades of 'conscience'.

Mrs May should have gone to the EU right at the start of negotiations and said: 'Look, I have a mandate to leave the EU, and that is what we are going to do.

'We would very much like to have unfettered trade with our European friends because this is the only sensible way forward for both of us.

'But make no mistake, if a reasonable deal is not forthcoming we WILL leave without one - and that would be bad for the whole of Europe as well as for us.'

Then we would at least have started on the right foot rather than the wrong one.

Instead she chose to ask: 'What do you want us to do, and how much cash to you want from us?'

And in that case if Mr Corbyn had backed the Prime Minister, because she was at least making some sort of effort to bring about the stated will of the people, again, Europe might just have thought twice, or even thrice, about what deal to offer.

I could go on at length pointing out to all our politicians that whether they liked it or not, during the referendum campaign both sides of the argument made it crystal clear that a vote to leave would mean leaving the Customs Union and that if no agreement was reached we would, albeit reluctantly, leave on World Trade Organization terms.

But frankly, I am personally so sad that an event of which I had high hopes should have been turned into a childish bun fight by the very people who were elected to Westminster to serve the people - not to further their own narrow causes or further inflate their already bloated egos (what I honestly believe has happened) - that I will leave it at that.

Which is why this *Dog* is somewhat shorter than usual (and some might say 'and a good thing too!').

Anyway, otherwise I have some fascinating comments to make about our bus services and how they are run, so you have been spared that - for a week at least!

Care trust's helpline offers support to cope with the January blues

IF you are feeling down or struggling with a mental health issue following 'Blue Monday' (January 21) support is on hand from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline.

The third Monday of January is dubbed 'Blue Monday' due to a combination of post-Christmas blues, cold dark nights and the arrival of unpaid credit card bills!

It's a day that reminds us that Christmas is over, our finances are low and the weather is getting colder - a time when people are most likely to experience anxiety, low mood and distress.

With this in mind, the trust's Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline is encouraging people who may be struggling or just need someone to talk to, to get in touch for support.

The helpline provides a listening ear for people across Lancashire who may be feeling lonely, stressed or experiencing mental health problems.

Its volunteers offer emotional support for anyone experiencing distress, supporting callers by using listening skills to enable them to make their own choices about how their health care needs may be met.

Lorraine Khalaf, Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline manager at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "January can be a difficult month with the aftermath of the festive period taking its toll of people both emotionally and financially.

Confidential

"People can also often find it hard to open up and taking the first move to get support can at times seem impossible.

"If you are concerned about the way you are feeling or just need someone to talk to please get in touch with us on 0800 915 4640.

"The helpline is here to provide a confidential listening and emotional support line to those who are concerned about their own mental health, or that of someone they know.

"We also provide general help for people who are having difficulty in maintaining their own wellbeing."

The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 7 to 11pm and Saturday and Sunday from midday to midnight.

● **For more information about the Wellbeing and Mental Health Helpline, call them on 0800 915 4640 or visit the website www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/Mental-Health-Helpline.**

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Headteacher hails success of school's novel '12Ks of Christmas' wellbeing initiative

THE headteacher of a West Lancs primary school has thanked everyone who helped to make the first initiative on its new exercise track a success.

Lordsgate Township CE Primary in Burscough opened its 'daily mile' track in December with the help of a £10,000 National Lottery award and additional funding from the school's Parents, Teachers and Friends Association, Burscough Community Lottery and the Government's 'School Sports Grant.'.

And it was immediately put to good use with the novel '12Ks of Christmas' initiative which saw the track open between December 5 and December 20 for pupils, parents and the staff to complete one kilometre a day as part of the school's health and wellbeing programme.

Headteacher Chris Hackett says that by the end of the period a total of 110 children were taking part, "sometimes turning out in pretty poor weather conditions".

Children were rewarded for the achievement of completing 12 days consecutively, while on the last day school cook, Mrs Levenson, provided them all with hot chocolate and a healthy biscuit.

Headteacher Chris Hackett and pupils at the opening of the track.

Mr Hackett said: "We would like to thank everyone who took part, including parents and family members, for making this initiative a great success. We will now aim to continue the daily mile supporting children's health and wellbeing."

The 'daily mile' initiative originated at a school in Scotland in 2012 and proved to be so sustainable and effective in combatting inactivity and obesity that in 2015 the Scottish government recommended every school in the country implement the scheme.

And in August 2016 the UK Government's Childhood Obesity Strategy identified and supported the daily mile's contribution towards the recommended hour that children should spend taking daily exercise in school.

Mr Hackett says the daily mile involves every child in the school running or jogging at their own pace for 15 minutes every day.

He added: "It is not competitive but rather physical activity in a social setting aimed at improving the children's physical, social, emotional and mental health, and wellbeing.

"It can also help children to focus and concentrate in the classroom and raise their attainment - and, perhaps most importantly, they really enjoy it."

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Sue: 07817 444580

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The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
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Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY

CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY

MELLING
Melling Residents Community Association (Ratepayers Club) Melling
5pm & 7pm
Katie: 07469 193445

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
9.30am
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club
School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY

AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut (behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am, 11.30am
Sarah: 07792 146342

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sarah: 07792 146342

FRIDAY

ORMSKIRK
New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club, Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines, Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY

KIRKBY
St. Martins Church
Peatwood Avenue
7.30am & 9.30am
Emma: 07414 223617

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close
(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
8.30am & 10.30am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Volunteers wanted for Big Garden Birdwatch

OFFICIALS of wildlife charity the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are once again looking for volunteers in West Lancashire to take part in its annual Big Garden Birdwatch.

This year's three-day event, the 40th, gets underway on Saturday (January 26).

The RSPB is asking volunteers to spend just one hour watching and recording the birds that land in their garden or local green space, then send their results across to them.

During the last four decades, more than 130 million birds have been counted nationally giving the RSPB an astonishing amount of insight into how our wildlife is faring.

Since its launch the Big Garden Birdwatch has highlighted the 'winners' and 'losers' in the garden bird world. It was first to alert the charity to the decline in song thrush numbers. A firm fixture in the top 10 in 1979, by 2009 its recorded numbers were less than half those recorded 30 years earlier as it plummeted to 20th in the rankings.

The song thrush - the Big Garden Birdwatch volunteers helped to alert the RSPB to the decline in its numbers over the last four decades.

The survey has also highlighted increases in collared dove and wood pigeon numbers, and the alarming decline of the house sparrow and starling.

As well as counting birds, the RSPB is once again asking participants to log some of the other wildlife they have seen throughout the year. This year, people are being asked to look out for badgers, foxes, grey squirrels, red squirrels, muntjac deer, roe deer, frogs and toads.

RSPB chief executive, Mike Clarke, said: "Everyone has a role to play in saving nature and protecting our wildlife. Big Garden Birdwatch participants have made a significant contribution to monitoring garden bird numbers over the past four decades.

"Those taking part work together as part of a community with thousands of other Big Garden Birdwatchers, to help the RSPB's work to protect birds, other wildlife and the places they live."

For a free Big Garden Birdwatch pack, which includes a bird identification chart, plus RSPB shop voucher and advice to help attract wildlife to your garden, text BIRD to 70030 or visit rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

Got a story? Ring the Champ News Desk on 01704 392400

Former trade minister and head of CBI joins Burscough company

Report by **Kenny Parker**

BURSCOUGH company, Metalfloor UK Ltd., has appointed former director general of the Confederation of British Industry and Government minister, Lord Digby Jones as a non-executive chairman.

Lord Jones was director general of the CBI between 2000 and 2006 and Minister of State for Trade and Investment between 2007 and 2008.

Metalfloor, based at Merlin Park on Ringtail Road, says that he will look to support and champion the company "moving forward" and will assist greatly in its future growth.

Formed in 2012, Metalfloor UK Ltd. imports large volumes of specialist raised access flooring products from Germany and Italy under sole distributor licences.

Expertise

Raised access flooring is designed to allow wiring and mechanical devices to be placed underneath and is widely used in the modern office sector.

Managing director, Philip Preston, said: "We are delighted and privileged to have secured the expertise of Lord Digby Jones to support the next phase of our company's development and growth.

"Lord Jones brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge and is well known on the world stage for championing UK businesses both large and small."

And Lord Jones commented: "It is an absolute privilege to be appointed chairman of Metalfloor. SMEs (small to medium enterprises) are the lifeblood and engine room of our country.

"Those in public life and involved only in big business, can easily work in a bubble divorced from the real world and ignorant of the issues that challenge smaller businesses on a daily basis.

"I shall learn from Metalfloor, just as, hopefully, they will benefit from what I can bring to the party. Here's to a great future together!"

The company's financial director, Jacqui Ward, added: "Lord Jones has joined us at an important stage, where Metalfloor UK is undergoing a period of sustained growth.

"We are looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that this exciting new appointment will deliver."

Lord Digby Jones.

Local solicitor says planned probate fee hike is a stealth tax

A LOCAL solicitor has described proposed changes to probate fees, which would see a hike of nearly 2,700% in the charge levied on the largest estates, as a 'stealth tax' and is calling on MP Rosie Cooper to take up the matter with the Government.

The new legislation put forward by the Ministry of Justice, due to come into effect next April, would see probate fees scrapped on all estates worth less than £50,000. However, a sliding scale of charges would see probate fees on estates worth more than £2m rise from £215 to £6,000.

Michael Prendergast of Dickinson Parker Hill, based in Ormskirk, says that virtually the same amount of work is required of the probate registry for both small and large estates and that therefore the fees are disproportionate and would need approval by Parliament.

The Government says the new fee structure is "fair and progressive".

Graduated

At present, a flat fee for applying for a grant of representation, commonly known as probate, is £215 for a personal application and £155 if a solicitor makes the application. The charge is applicable on all estates worth more than £5,000.

However, the changes would introduce a graduated fee structure based upon the value of an estate. Under the new system, estates valued at more than £2m will pay £6,000, while those worth between £1.6m and £2m will pay £5,000 and those between £1m and £1.6m £4,000.

For estates worth between £500,000 and £1m, the amount will be £2,500, while those in the £50,000 to £300,000 price bracket will pay £250. There will be no fees on estates valued at less than £50,000.

Mr Prendergast said: "It is very hard to see how this level of fee increase can be justified and any tax, which is effectively what this is, needs to be approved by Parliament rather than being packaged as a fee increase. I would urge our local MP to raise this issue with the Government."

Packed programme at Parbold Library

THERE is a packed programme of events in store at Parbold Library in the coming weeks.

On Saturday, February 2 from 10.30am the library will play host to the Family Lego Club, with Lego provided.

The following Wednesday (February 6), features a Book and a Brew event from 10.30 to 11.30am, an opportunity to chat with like-minded people about the books you're reading and add your reviews to the Lancashire libraries' 50 Book Challenge

On Wednesday, February 13, there will be a drop-in session with charity, Galloway's Society for the Blind from 9.30am to 12.30pm. This is an event to help people living with sight loss to gain confidence in the use of technology that can help everyday life. Help will be provided to use mobile phones and tablets and with software queries.

And on Saturday, February 16 between 11 and 11.30am, the libary will feature Sharing Stories, a 30-minute story time suitable for children aged between five and seven and their families.

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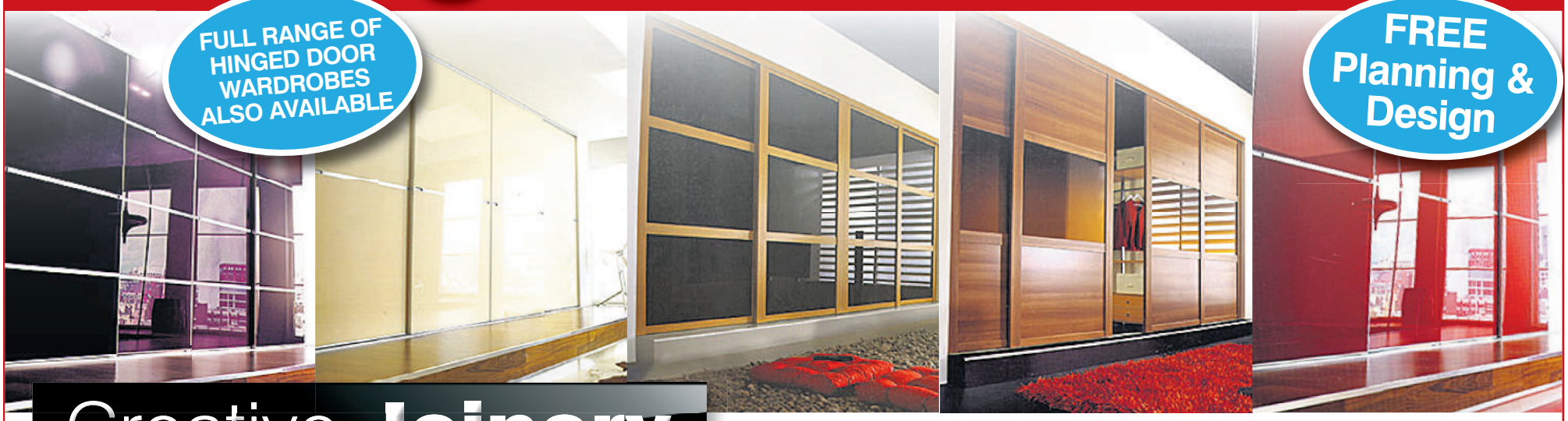

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This year's Edge Hill Short Story Prize open for submissions

THIS year's Edge Hill University Short Story Prize is now open for submissions, with the winner due to receive £10,000 at a special event in London in November.

Now in its 13th year, it is the only UK-based award that recognizes excellence in a published short story collection and will also include a £1,000 Reader's Choice award to a writer from the shortlist, and a further category for stories written by Edge Hill MA Creative Writing students.

The Edge Hill Short Story Prize was founded in 2006 by the world's first Professor of Short Fiction, Ailsa Cox, to highlight the intricate artisanship of short story writing and acknowledge the wealth of published collections available.

Billy Cowan, who took over last year from Ailsa, is again at the helm. He said: "I'm thrilled to be running the competition again and hope to find a collection as brilliant and as deeply moving and profound as Tessa Hadley's 2018 winning entry, *Bad Dreams*. We've had a fantastic few years helping to discover new talent like Daisy Johnson (2017 winner) and Jessie Greengrass (2016 winner) and I can't wait to find another collection that can match the brilliance of these last three winning entries."

Judges will be announced soon.

Last year's winner, Tessa Hadley.

Publishers must submit collections for consideration by Friday, April 5 and the shortlist will be announced by June 30.

To be eligible, collections must have been published between January 1 and December 31, 2018. Authors must be born or normally reside in the British Isles (including Ireland). Self-published collections are not eligible.

For more details and to submit your entry go to https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/shortstory/.

City bucks national footfall trends

DESPITE a national slump, Liverpool's high street is bucking trends, with footfall in 2018 up by 2.4% on the previous year, representing three years of consecutive growth.

The Liverpool BID Company, which represents the voice of retailers and compiled the figures, believe the diverse and evolving nature of the its retail and leisure offer - from the independent retailers on Bold Street, to the national brands of Church Street, St John's Shopping Centre, Clayton Square, Whitechapel and Williamson Square, and the boutique shops at Metquarter - is what keeps people coming back to the city centre.

It also attributes the rise to an annual programme of events and animation within its Retail and Leisure BID area.

In comparison, Liverpool's northern competitors reported a -1.5% drop in footfall for the same year. And it's an even bleaker picture nationally, with the UK as a whole reporting a -2.5% slump.

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Charity's campaign to keep region's youngsters safe from household cleaning products

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents initiative aims to keep youngsters safe around cleaning equipment.

SAFETY campaigners are seeking participants for a North West initiative aimed at keeping youngsters out of danger around household cleaning products.

Charity The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) is calling on organisations and health visitors in the region to help reduce the number of young children being injured by such products.

The campaign, *Take Action Today*, is targeted at families with under-fives, and aims to protect children against accidental poisoning.

A similar project has proved successful in other areas of the UK including Liverpool, Birmingham, Bradford, Newcastle, Chester, Nottingham, Lincolnshire and Northern Ireland, where 300,000 families have been helped to prevent poisoning and eye injuries.

Figures for North West hospital admissions for accidental poisoning of under-fives are higher than the national average.

Reminder

To address this, the charity hopes to involve health visitors, early years workers, family nurses, school nurses, wellbeing advisors and those best placed to help children stay safe, happy and healthy, for the best start in life.

As part of the campaign, a handy magnetic notepad featuring key safety advice will be handed out to thousands of families.

Ashley Martin, RoSPA's acting public health adviser, said: "The notepad acts as a constant reminder in family kitchens to store cleaning products out of reach, out of sight and in a locked cupboard.

"Due to their inquisitive nature, children under the age of five are most at risk of accidentally swallowing or getting household cleaning products, like liquid laundry capsules, into their eyes.

"Even products with a child-resistant closure cannot guarantee safety - they only reduce the risk by delaying access to the product."

Advice to parents includes:

- **Store household cleaning products out of reach of children, preferably in a locked cupboard.**
- **Always store chemicals in their original containers.**
- **Never pierce or break laundry capsules or tablets**
- **Always close the lid of any product.**
- **In the event of an incident, follow advice on the product pack and seek medical attention.**

For more information, visit rospa.com or to take part, email Jim Oram at joram@ROSPA.com

New strategy director for Transport for the North

TRANSPORT for the North has appointed a new strategy and programme director.

The partnership brings together the north's 20 local and combined authorities and northern business leaders with central government to give the region one voice on the transport infrastructure investment needed to boost the region's economy.

Jeremy Bloom, a senior industry leader with 28 years' experience, will take up the post in April from Highways England, where for the last 13 years he has led strategy, programme delivery and investment planning.

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The #Lancashire Listens initiative banner.

Still time to take part in #Lancashire Listens initiative

County's libraries promoting reading as a cure for seasonal blues

THERE is still time to help combat the 'January blues' by taking part in Lancashire County Council's #LancashireListens initiative.

Until the end of this month, libraries in the county are promoting reading as a way of lifting people's spirits and promoting health and wellbeing.

A selection of mood-lifting books are available through an interactive app, BorrowBox, which allows library members to download audiobooks straight to their smartphones, iPads, tablets, laptops or computers.

This free service enables customers to browse, download and listen to items 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The app is available for iOS and Android phones, tablets and Kindle Fire.

Three e-audiobooks are available on simultaneous download for the rest of the month. The full collection on the BorrowBox download library includes 3,307 e-audiobooks and 8,514 ebooks.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, the county council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "I'm pleased that we are running #LancashireListens in libraries to help to combat the January blues and there's still time for more people to take part and get engrossed in a good book to lift their mood.

"We've made books as accessible as possible so that library members can download their favourite titles no matter where they are, and at any time of the day or night. BorrowBox is so handy and easy to use. All our customers need to do is to download the app onto their device and they'll be able to access books around the clock, from the very best authors.

"I hope that more people take part as it is a great way to start off the New Year in a positive way."

People can call in at their local library to find out more and take a look at the resources that are available. For more information, go to www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or call 0300 123 6703.

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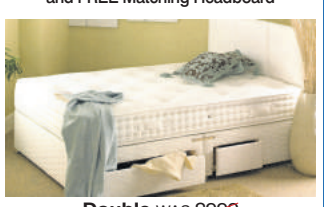

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War Horse returning

MICHAEL Morpurgo's War Horse, the theatrical event based on the novel, will return to play the Liverpool Empire Theatre from July 31 to August 17.

War Horse last played at the Liverpool Empire in November 2017 to record number of audiences.

Directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, Nick Stafford's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's remarkable story of courage, loyalty and friendship, about a young boy called Albert and his horse Joey, set against the backdrop of the First World War is the most successful play in the National Theatre's history.

Helpers release details of new season

HELPERS from Parbold Picture House at Parbold Village Hall have released their list of film showings and theatre streamings for January through to April.

On Thursday, January 31st audiences will be able to see I'm not running at 7pm. This is a new play by David Hare about an NHS doctor facing a political issue and choice.

People can watch Funny Cow on Sunday, February 3 at 7pm. This film is directed by Adrian Shergold and stars: Maxine Peake, Alun Armstrong, Tony Pitts, and Stephen Graham. This picture is set in the North Of England in the 1970s and '80s. It looks at a woman comedian's rise to stardom using the raw material from her life to bring comedy to the stage.

Alan Bennett's multi award-winning play – The Madness of King George III is being shown on Tuesday, February 12 at 7pm. It stars Mark Gatiss (Sherlock).

On Sunday, February 17 at 7pm Cold War is being presented. It is directed by Pawel Pawlikowski (Best Director Cannes 2018) and stars Joanna Kulig, and Tomasz Kot. The film is set in post war Poland, under Soviet control, two musicians fall obsessively and tragically in love…their story plays out across 1950s and 1960s Europe.

The Wife can be seen on Sunday, March 3 at 7p.m. It is directed by Bjorn Runge and stars Glenn Close, and Jonathan Price. In the film a devoted wife questions her life following her husband's selection for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

On Sunday, March 17 at 7pm Stan and Ollie is being shown. It is directed by Jon S Baird and stars John C Reilly, and Steve Coogan In the film Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, who are out of fashion in Hollywood, embark on a tour of the Music Halls of 1950s Britain.

BlackKKlansman is being presented on Sunday, March 31 at 7pm. The film is directed by Spike Lee and stars John David Washington, and Adam Driver. It is based on the true story of an African American cop and an undercover investigation into the Klan in 1970s USA.

Audiences can see Shoplifters on Sunday, April 14 at 7 pm Shoplifters. It is directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda and stars Kriin Kiki, Lily Franky, Ando Sakura. The film won the Palme D'Or for Best Film at Cannes in 2018. The picture is about an impoverished Japanese family who take in a young girl whom they fear is being abused.

On Sunday, April 28 at 7pm Free Solo can be seen. It is directed by Jimmy Chin, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi. It is a documentary about rock-climber, Alex Honnold's plan to scale the Yosemite Park's El Capitan Wall without a safety rope – arguably the greatest feat in rock climbing history. The film was nominated for many 2018/19 Best Documentary Awards. Call 01257 464533.

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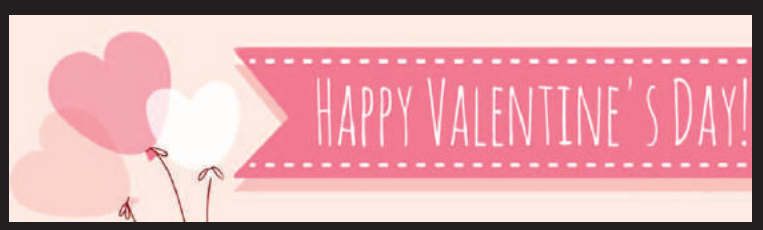

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SONY TELEVISION 32 Inch LCD with remote and stand,HDMI ports.Collection Southport town centre.£85 07511244183

TV STAND Clear glass with 3 shelves 20 inch high, 40 inch wide,16 inch deep £30 ono 07756229527

GOODMAN DVD Goodman DVD player. Perfect working order £10. 07919532883

JAMES BOND Dvd's. 23 in total. 20 in special tin, 3 loose. £25 07806775741

PLAYSTATION 2 with 37 boys games age 7 + £30 01704 840152

GAME OF THRONES box set 1-7, £35 01704 876158

THE PACIFIC dvd box set, new £5 01704 896882

HOUSE AND HOME

VARIOUS FURNITURE 4-drawer filing cabinets; garden pots and tools; vintage Dynatron radiogram with speakers, due to house move. 07773 715666

2 X 2 SEATER SOFAS plus one chair. Beige. VGC. £100. Oak TV Cabinet. New condition. £65. 07920 133920

FULL SIZE BATH with all fittings including mixing tap set. All as new never been used. Bargain £75. 01704 563839

ROCKING CHAIR Approx 90 years old cane seat. £50 07812543224

BEDSIDE DRAWER 3 draw bedside draws. Light wood effect. Good condition. Southport. £10 07795099515

BEDSIDE TABLES two tables solid wood 2 draws measures 26 inch H/14 1/2 inch W /14 inch D 01704220356

BEDSIDE/SIDE TABLES solid wood 2 draws measures 26 inch high 14 1/2 Wide 14 inch Depth £25 for both 01704220356

BUNK BED single with mattress, excellent condition, cost £250, 6 months old, £100 can deliver 07718 464379

DUCAL PINEWOOD ROUND DINING TABLE and four chairs, cream seat cover £100. Dehumidifier £20 07882 532664

DVD/CD CAROSEL Dark wood 29 inch high, 16 inch wide, 17 inch deep excellent condition £100 ono 07756229527

ELECTRO REFLEXOLOGIST Relieves aches, pains, swelling and improves circulation. Cost £178 hardly used £50 0773 1946207

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FRIDGE/FREEZER 50/50 Bosch, 5'7 high, good condition £50. Bosch dishwasher, good condition £50. 01704 563218

HENRY VACUUM Henry 200 vacuum cleaner, little used, as new with all attachments and spare bags £75 01704 876855

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LEATHER SOFAS Brown leather 3 seater 90 inch long, 2 seater 68 inch long, both 39 inch high, 36 inch deep £200 07756229527

LIGHT FITTINGS 4 ornate double wall lights and fittings grey metal (difficult to describe) excellent condition £25 01704220356

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COFFEE TABLE Bentley designs Lyon glass top coffee table in oak £65 07707459659

HOUSE AND HOME

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PINE DRAWERS Small 3 drawer chest 15"w ×15"d ×27"h £12 01704 224039

SIDE TABLE small side table very thick solid wood top £25ono 07741206449

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(SOUTHPORT ROAD, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (REVOCATION AND 40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Speed Limit Order under Section 84 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1. Revoke the "Lancashire County Council (Various Roads including A570 and A577, Burscough, Blaguegate, Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Westhead, West Lancashire) (Revocation, Restricted Road, De-Restriction, 40mph and 50mph speed limits) Order 2015" insofar as it relates to:

a. Item e) of Schedule 1;

b. Item f) of Schedule 2.

2. Revoke the "Lancashire County Council (Bescar Brow Lane, Hall Road, Dam Wood Lane and Southport Road, Scarisbrick and Ormskirk, West Lancashire Borough) (Part revocation, 30, 40, and 50 MPH Speed Limits) Order 2012" insofar as it relates to:

a. Item b) of Schedule 2;

b. Item c) of Schedule 3.

3. Introduce a 40mph speed limit on Southport Road, Scarisbrick, from a point 485 metres south-east of its junction with the centre line of Smithy Lane, in a generally north-westerly direction to a point 220 metres south-east of its junction with the centre line of Gorsuch Lane.

A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF and at the offices of the Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ, and on Lancashire County Councils website http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/roadworks-and-traffic-regulation-orders/permanent.aspx. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to the Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston, Lancashire PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4\894.8664\AFR** before the 23rd February 2019.

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services

23 January 2019

Lancashire County Council

www.lancashire.gov.uk

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BIRTHDAYS

FREDDIE MARSH
Look who's Sixty!
28 January 19

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All our love Suzanne, Rebecca, Bethany, Day & Lee

Mum, Dad, Sue & Nev xxx

IN MEMORIAM

GREEN EVA
26th January 2017

I am sending a dove to Heaven,with a parcel on its wings, be careful when you open it, as it's full of beautiful things. Inside are a million kisses, wrapped up in a million hugs, to say how much I miss you, and send you all my love. I hold you close within my heart and there you will remain, to walk with me through out my life, until we meet again. Always loved and sadly missed your ever loving Husband Bob xxxxxxxx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LORD LORRAINE (LOZZ)

The Family of the late Lorraine Lord would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the sympathy cards, messages of condolence and donations for Queenscourt Hospice received during their recent sad loss of a much loved Wife, Mum, Daughter, Sister and Friend.
Thanks also to The Nursing Staff of Ward 10a at Southport Hospital, for all their care and attention given, John Milton for his kind words of comfort, and Lisa Hunter and her team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for the dignified funeral arrangements.

STEWART MAUREEN

The family of the late Maureen would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages of sympathy, cards, flowers and donations for Claire House during their recent sad loss.
Special thanks to the dedicated staff on Ward G at Ormskirk Hospital.
Thanks also to Carol Edwards for a lovely service and to Melanie at H Hardman & Co for her dignified funeral arrangements

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DEATHS

ALLISON MARJORIE

17th January 2019
Peacefully at
Silver Birch Lodge, Aughton
aged 82 years
of Westhead

The dearly loved Wife of Ian and a very dear friend of Mildred, Johnny and family. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 10:45am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the British Heart Foundation. All enquires to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

HALLINAN ADA

On 6th January 2019
Peacefully after a long illness

Dearly loved Wife of the late Frank and Sister to Fred, Patricia and Betty. She was a much respected Teacher at St. Andrews School and Deyes High School, she is dearly loved and missed by all who knew her and her family would like to thank Parklands Nursing Home for the love and care given to Ada. Her Funeral Service is to be held at St Andrew's Church, Damfield Lane, Maghull on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 12:00noon followed by committal at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations if desired in memory of Ada will be gratefully received for The Alzheimer's Society and for all enquiries, please contact Graham J. Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull 0151 520 3330

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MERCER JOHN (JACK)

'The Little Flower'

8th January 2019

Died peacefully at home

Aged 80

Jack will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service and committal to take place at Southport Crematorium on 28th January 2019 at 11.20am.

Further enquiries to NEWLAND AND WILKINSON Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone: 01772 811165

DEATHS

CORRIGAN MARGARET (RITA)

10th January 2019
Peacefully in hospital
aged 77 years

Loving Wife of the late Frank, devoted Mum of Stephen, Ian (deceased), Anne-Marie, Michael and Claire. Dear Mother-in-law of Paula, Kevin and Michael. Cherished Nan of Phillip, Andrew, Matthew, Thomas, Oliver, Elizabeth and Luke. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Requiem Mass will be held at St Mary Queen of Apostles Church on Thursday 24th January at 11am followed by interment at St. Richards Churchyard. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

WELBOURNE DUNCAN

Aged 78 Years
Peacefully Passed Away
14th January 2019

Husband to Lyn, Dad to Andrew & Amanda, Grandfather to Emily, Sam, George, Great Grandfather to Bentley. Duncan will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all who knew him. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 1st February 2019 at 12:15pm. Family flowers only please, donations to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Further enquiries to NEWLAND & WILKINSON Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, Lancashire. PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392 or visit champnews.com

DEATHS

PEMBERTON MARGARET JEAN (JEAN)

10th January 2019
Passed away peacefully in hospital
aged 85 years
of Burscough

Dearly loved Wife of the late Alf, Cherished Mum of Pauline, Julie, Peter & Mike. Devoted Nan of Sarah, Carl, Will, Ellie, James, Kelsey, Beth & Aidan. A Loving Great Nan of Grace, George, Maddy & Izabelle, and a Dear Friend & Companion of Richard. Will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 29th January 2019, at 11.30am. family flowers only by request, but donations if so desired for the Alzheimer's Society.

Donations and further enquiries please to:

Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, Tel: 01704 891555.

BAKER MARY

11th January 2019
Peacefully in hospital surrounded by her loving family
aged 71 years

Loving Wife of Larry, devoted Mum of Gary, Debbie and Lisa. Cherished Nan of Jessica and Sam. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at Greenacres Rainford on Thursday 31st January at 12noon. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for The Donkey Sanctuary. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

DEATHS

DE'BARR ETHEL

Sadly Passed 15th January. Devoted Wife of The Late Gordon, Loving Mum of The Late David, Sue and Karen. Nan To Kylie and Melissa and Great Nan To Courtney. Service To be Held at Denbighshire Cremetorium, St. Asaph. Friday 1st February at 2pm

Enquiries To Morris Funeral Directors, Rhyl 01745 331792

OLDFIELD THELMA ANNETTE

16th January 2019
Peacefully in hospital
aged 60 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of Garry, loving Sister of Nicky and Michael and dear Daughter in law of Marian. All enquires to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

STEWART GEORGE GRAHAM

10th January 2019

Aged 99 years

Devoted Husband of the late Doris, beloved Father of Vivien. Fun and loving Grandad to John, Katushia, Great-Grandad to Dominic, Rosaria and Leonardo. George will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP on Monday 28th January at 10:45am. Donations are being collected in lieu of flowers for Woodlands Animal Sanctuary. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1 – 5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

SAMMIN JAMES PATRICK 'SEAMUS'

On 15th January 2019
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 80 years
R.I.P.

Devoted and much loved Husband of Marie, adored Father of Katie and Louise, dear Father in law of Marc and Nick, dearly loved Granddad of Elsie, Gracie, Mikey and Eva, loving Brother of Bete, Nancy, Tommy, Mary and the late Kitty. 'Seamus will be sadly missed by all his family and friends'. Requiem Mass will take place at St. Maries Church on Thursday 24th January at 12:00 noon, followed by the committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only by request, donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice or Parkinsons UK. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

DEATHS

RIMMER CHARLES

11th January 2019
Peacefully in hospital
aged 94 years
of Crank
formerly of Halsall

The dearly loved Husband of the late Joan, loving Dad of John, dear Father in law of Annette and devoted Grandad of Katie. Funeral service and interment at St Cuthberts Church, Halsall on Monday 28th January 2019 at 11:00am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for St Cuthbert's Church, Halsall. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors Tel:01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

RIMMER STANLEY (STAN)

11th January 2019

Aged 86 years

Died peacefully at home. Devoted Husband of the late Hazel. Much loved Dad to Alicia & Father-in-law to Harry. Cherished Grandad of Robert & Great Grandad of Alice. Stan will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 24th January at 2:00pm. Family flowers only please. Donations are being collected for R.N.L.I Southport. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

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DEATHS

GREENALL WINIFRED BRENDA

11th January 2019
Suddenly at home
aged 90 years

Loving Wife of the late Bill, devoted Mum of Phil, dear Mother-in-law of Diane, caring Sister of Jeff and Marian. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Pauls Church on Tuesday 29th January at 11am followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Diabetes UK. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

DEATHS

RAMSKILL MARIA

Passed away at
The Beaufort Care Home
14th January 2019
aged 91 years

Widow of Ray Ramskill, Much Loved Mother of Patrizia and Elizabeth.
Mother in law of Patrick and Rhys, "Nonna" of Robert, Cristina, Laura and Adam.
Funeral Service and Interment at St.John R.C Church Burscough, Monday 28th January 2019 at 11.00 am. Family flowers only please by request, but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough Tel: 01704 891555.

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QUEENSCOURT 2000 DRAW RESULTS

This week's £1,500 Prize Winner lives in Three Tuns Lane, Formby

£1,500 = 28893 £100 = 28239

Winners of £20 are as follows:

18442	330251
241652	188053
90951	328117
25930	295140
21891	13108
155529	29881
17792	166784
27109	29110
190760	3651
256534	10641

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS

Friday 18th January 2019

£1000.....Mrs Glover from Thornton

£250.....Mrs O'Grady from Wirrall

£100.....Mrs Pritchard from Birkdale

Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/1180/FUL Addition of an ancillary kitchen and events space to the existing building; new single storey structure to provide 22 guest accommodation units and associated landscaping at Briars Hall Hotel, 156 Briars Lane, Lathom.
The application affects a Conservation Area.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

2019/0005/FUL Internal and external student accommodation refurbishment in the conservation area. Existing units to be rationalised with increasing number of single bedrooms at 15, 19, 21-25 & 27 Moor Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Listed Building.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2019/0010/FUL Variation of Condition No. 10 of planning permission 2014/0348/FUL to be varied as follows: "The units identified as I, VI, VII and VIII on the Plan ref: Phasing Plan submitted as part of the S106 Agreement to 2006/0075, shall only be open for business and deliveries between the hours of 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 6pm. Sundays and Bank Holidays. The units identified as IX and X, on the Plan ref: Phasing Plan submitted as part of the S106 Agreement to 2006/0075, shall only be open for business between the hours of 7am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and 9am and 6pm on Sundays, and for deliveries between the hours of 8am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 6pm Sundays and Bank Holidays. The unit identified as II on the Plan ref: Phasing Plan submitted as part of the S106 Agreement to 2006/0075, shall only be open for business and deliveries between the hours of 7am and 8pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 6pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays." at 4 - 6 Hattersley Way, The Hattersley Centre, Ormskirk.

2019/0036/FUL Front single storey infill extension between existing double garage and existing house at 11 Whitefield Close, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2019/0037/FUL Replacement windows and doors at 16 Springwood Drive, Rufford.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2019/0038/FUL Double-storey rear extension , single-storey front extension in line with that of existing building. Alter internal arrangement to provide indoor swimming pool, new living/dining area, gym and utility at ground floor. Master bedroom with en-suite and internal balcony, new bedroom at first floor at 43 Granville Park West, Aughton.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2019/0040/FUL Enlargement of car park at Land Adjacent To, Orchard House, 17 Summerwood Lane, Halsall.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

2019/0042/FUL Decoration of external elevation at Nationwide, 29 Burscough Street, Ormskirk.
The application affects a Conservation Area.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information, including your name and address, you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 23rd January 2019
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT1029

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Closing date for receipt of applications: Wednesday 30th January 2019 • Interview date: Thursday 7th February 2019

For a full list of skills required for the roles, please see the Job Description and Person Specification which is available from our vacancies page on our website **www.queenscourt.org.uk/jobs**

You will also find an application form – please complete in full and return to **recruitment@queenscourt.org.uk**

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MAWDESLEY NORTH
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AUGHTON
• Butterfield Gardens, Claremont Drive, Prescot Road, Redsands, Rose Place
ORMSKIRK
• Brighouse Close, Cottage Close, Cottage Lane, Cottage Mews, County Road, Garnett Green, Kinloch Way, Rothwell Close, The Orchard
• Altys Lane, Brook Lane, Elm Place, Furness Avenue, Ravenscroft Avenue, Statham Way
PARBOLD
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SCARISBRICK
• Bescar Brow Lane, Bullens Lane, Church Garage, Jacksmere Lane, Southport Road
ASHURST
• Marlborough, Marlborough Court, Marlborough Gardens, Melbreck, Mountwood,
BIRCH GREEN
• Yewdale
ELMERS GREEN
• Ashwood, Beechwood, Elmwood, Firwood, Forest Drive, Oakwood, Pinewood
• Eastleigh, Elmers Green, Elmers Green Lane, Evington, Feltons Mews
UPHOLLAND
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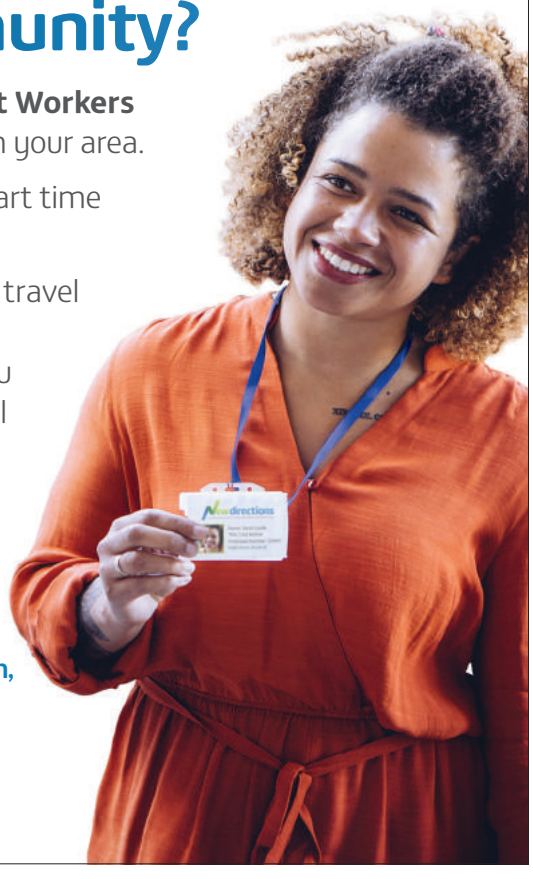

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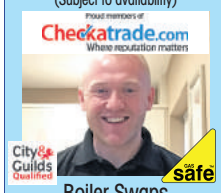

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15 PEUGEOT PARTNER EXPERT INDEPENDANCE 2.0 HDI AUTOMATIC, Golden Sands Metallic, 6 full size seats, plus space for wheelchair, lowered floor with ramp for easy access, 26,000 miles only, 1 owner, air con, elec pack, CD radio, very rare vehicle indeed..... **£12,999**

15 SKODA YETI 1.6 TDI SE GREENLINE II, Brilliant Silver, A/C, alloys, 24,000 miles only, a fabulous family vehicle..... **£9,999**

15 FORD GALAXY TITANIUM 2.0 TDCI AUTOMATIC, parkside, privacy glass, roof rails, massive spec, 18,000 miles only..... **£15,999**

15 SKODA OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 1.4 TSi AUTOMATIC 5-Dr, corrida red, sat nav, leather alcantara trim, alloys, climate, 6,000 miles, one owner, full history..... **£12,999**

15 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.5 TDCI (new model), choice of Panther Black, or Moondust Silver, A/C, appearance pack, alloys, Bluetooth, zero road tax!..... **£8,499**

15 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.5 TDCi 5-Dr, ruby red metallic, sat nav, keyless go, bluetooth, climate control etc £20 tax..... **£9,999**

15 PEUGEOT 3008 ACTIVE 1.6 HDi, diamond black, A/C, alloys, CD/radio & bluetooth, 11,000 miles only, value at..... **£9,999**

15 VAUXHALL MOKKA SE 1.4 T AUTOMATIC, Polar White, full leather interior, heated seats, parking sensors, A/C etc, 11,000 miles only..... **£11,999**

15 MINI ONE 1.2 PEPPER PACK, Volcanic Orange, air con, alloys, Bluetooth, excitement pack, service pack til 2020, 23,000 miles, one owner..... **£9,499**

9 SEATER MINIBUS

64 CITROEN DISPATCH 2.0 HDi 9 SEAT MINIBUS, finished in silver with light grey trim, A/C, CD/radio, e/windows and r/locking etc. One private owner from new with full Citroen service history and only 42,000 miles..... **Great Value at only £11,999**

64 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCi, deep impact blue metallic, privacy glass, upgraded alloys, A/C, CD radio with bluetooth, only £20 road tax and lots of MPG..... **£7,499**

14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ELITE, roman bronze, full leather heated seats, alloys, A/C, 35,000 miles only..... **£6,999**

63 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.6 TDI SE 5 DOOR, star silver 12,000 miles only from New! Alloys, A/C etc, Nil road tax and lots of MPG..... **£9,999**

63 FORD FIESTA 1.25 ZETEC 3DR, race red, A/C, Bluetooth, alloys, CD/radio etc, 19,000 miles only..... **value at £6,299**

63 FORD B-MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST, race red, A/C, Bluetooth, C/D radio, full electric pack, 24,000 miles, only £20 road tax..... **£6,999**

61 FORD C-MAX TITANIUM 2.0 TDCi AUTOMATIC, chill silver climate control, Keyless Go, alloys, e/pack 27,000 miles only..... **£6,999**

13 FORD S-MAX TITANIUM 2.0 TDCi AUTOMATIC, moondust silver, climate control, DAB radio, keyless go, full history, 51,000 careful miles..... **£10,999**

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£169 per month
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Cash Price	£11,144.98	Optional Final Payment	£4,821.00
Customer Deposit	£169.00	Interest Charges	£2,334.08
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£10,475.98	Total Amount Payable	£13,777.06
47 Monthly Payments	£169.00	APR Representative	8.8%

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa Energy 1.4 75PS 3dr

£179 per month
£0 deposit
£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£13,999.00	Optional Final Payment	£4,251.00
Customer Deposit	£0.00	Interest Charges	£1,304.01
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£11,399.00	Total Amount Payable	£15,303.01
47 Monthly Payments	£179.83	APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Crossland X SE 1.2 83PS

£219 per month
£219 deposit
£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£16,630.13	Optional Final Payment	£6,104.00
Customer Deposit	£219.00	Interest Charges	£1,731.93
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£14,711.43	Total Amount Payable	£18,362.06
47 Monthly Payments	£219.98	APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Astra 1.0T SRi 5dr

£259 per month
£259 deposit
£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£21,006.47	Optional Final Payment	£6,579.00
Customer Deposit	£259.00	Interest Charges	£1,950.59
Minimum Part Ex	£259.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£18,847.47	Total Amount Payable	£22,957.06
47 Monthly Payments	£259.98	APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X 1.4T Active

£259 per month
£259 deposit
£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£21,589.99	Optional Final Payment	£7,149.00
Customer Deposit	£259.00	Interest Charges	£2,037.07
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£17,330.99	Total Amount Payable	£23,627.06
47 Monthly Payments	£259.98	APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Grandland X 1.2T SE 5dr

£279 per month
£279 deposit
£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£22,693.45	Optional Final Payment	£9,880.00
Customer Deposit	£279.00	Interest Charges	£2,524.61
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00	Annual Mileage	5,000
Amount of Credit	£20,514.45	Total Amount Payable	£25,218.06
47 Monthly Payments	£279.00	APR Representative	4.2%

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) – 74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban: 23.9 (11.8) – 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) – 85.6 (3.3). CO_2 emissions: 373 – 88g/km. Fuel consumption information is official government environmental data, tested in accordance with the relevant EU directive. Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, roadconditions and other non-technical factors. *Offers available on orders or registrations between 7 January 2019 and 31 March 2019, subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only excluding B2B supported units). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Vauxhall Motors Limited reserves the right to change, amend or withdraw this offer at any point in time. Correct at time of going to press. Part exchange vehicles must have a valid MOT & road fund licence. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. * Subject to credit acceptance, 06 Vauxhall can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to availability. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18+. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, CF15 7YT.

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2015 (65) HYUNDAI iX35 SE 1.6, SLEEK SILVER, ALLOYS, AIR CON. 15000 MILES ONLY.....**£11750**

2016 (16) SKODA FABIA 1.2 SEL AUTO. METALLIC BLUE, ALLOYS, AIR CON. CRUISE, 27000 MILES. **£9895**

2016 (65)	**AUDI A5 2.0 TDi S LINE BLACK ED.+, AUTO.** SEPANG BLUE, BLACK LEATHER, 30000 MILES	**£20750**
2015 (64)	**AUDI A3 1.6 TDi S LINE, 5 DOOR,** METALLIC GREY, ALLOYS, 23000 MILES ONLY	**£14495**
2015 (15)	**VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.4 TSi MATCH,** METALLIC BLACK, ALLOYS, AIR CON. CRUISE	**£10995**
2015 (15)	**FORD FOCUS 1.0 TITANIUM ECOBOOST 125,** SAT NAV. METALLIC BLUE, 17000 MILES	**£9995**
2015 (65)	**TOYOTA YARIS 1.5 ICON HYBRID AUTO.** MET. BLUE, ALLOYS, ZERO ROAD TAX, 27000 miles	**£9995**
2015 (65)	**HONDA JAZZ 1.4 SE AUTO.** SILVER, ALLOYS, AIR CON. LOW MILEAGE	**£9995**
2015 (65)	**FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC (NEW MODEL),** MET. BLUE, A/C. HEATED WINDSCREEN	**£9995**
2014 (64)	**PEUGEOT 3008 1.6 HDi ACTIVE,** METALLIC RED, ALLOYS, AIR CON. 17000 MILES	**£9495**
2013 (63)	**AUDI A1 1.2 TFSi SPORT,** MISANO RED, ALLOYS, AIR CON. 29000 MILES	**£9250**
2016 (66)	**FORD FIESTA 1.5 TDCi ZETEC, 5 DOOR,** METALLIC BLACK, ALLOYS, A/C, 9000 MILES ONLY	**£8995**
2015 (65)	**FORD B-MAX 1.4 ZETEC,** METALLIC GREY, ALLOYS, AIR CON. 14000 MILES ONLY	**£7995**
2015 (15)	**VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SE TURBO,** METALLIC GREY, LOW MILES, PANORAMIC ROOF	**£7695**
2014 (14)	**PEUGEOT 208 ALLURE 1.2, 5 DOOR,** METALLIC BLUE, 32000 MILES, ALLOYS, AIR CON	**£6750**
2011 (11)	**VW GOLF 1.4 TWIST, 5 DOOR,** ALLOYS, 59000 MILES, METALLIC BLACK	**£5750**
2013 (13)	**HONDA CRV 2.2 DIESEL EX.** MET GREY, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, 56000 MILES	**SOLD**
2015 (65)	**FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC (NEW MODEL),** MET. GREY, A/C, 8000 MILES ONLY	**SOLD**
2011 (11)	**FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC,** METALLIC GREY, LOW MILEAGE	**SOLD**
2014 (64)	**FOR DFIESTA 1.25 ZETEC, 5 DOOR,** MET. BLUE, ALLOYS, AIR CON. LOW MILEAGE	**SOLD**

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16 NISSAN QASHQAI DIESEL 5DR, manual, FSH in white, leather, sat nav, pan roof, rear parking camera **£13995**

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04 FORD TRANSIT, in silver, full MoT **NO VAT £1250**
52 CITROEN DISPATCH VAN **NO VAT £795**

60	**JAGUAR** XF 3LTR DIESEL AUTO, in black with leather & sat nav	**£6950**
52	**FORD** F150 PICK-UP 4.2 PETROL AUTO, left hand drive, in blue, superb condiiton	**£5995**
11	**NISSAN** JUKE in grey, leather, full spec	**£4995**
60	**SEAT** EXEO 2.0 TDI SALOON, silver, FSH	**£4695**
08	**TOYOTA** RAV-4 XTR AUTO, in black, 3 owners	**£4695**
61	**VW** GOLF TDI S 5-DR, in white, manual	**£4595**
11	**VAUXHALL** ASTRA 1.4 SXI 5DR, silver, alloys	**£3995**
P/P	**MERCEDES** CLK 2.4 CABRIOLET AVANTGARDE SPORT, in silver, grey leather, 62,000 miles, FSH	**£3795**
56	**AUDI** A6 AVANT 2.7TDi S-LINE, Manual, black, full leather	**£3595**
08	**NISSAN** QASHQAI TEKNA DIESEL, in silver, leather, panoramic roof, FSH	**£3495**

61	**HYUNDAI** I10 5DR, in silver, only 50,000 miles	**£3395**
59	**ALFA ROMEO** MITO LUSSO 3-dr, black metallic, 61k	**£3295**
10	**NISSAN** MICRA 1.2 PURE DRIVE, black	**£2995**
PP	**MERCEDES-** BENZ CL500 COUPE silver, black leather	**£2995**
56	**BMW** 320 SE AUTO SALOON petrol, black, black leather	**£2995**
09	**FORD** FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC 5DR, FSH	**£2995**
53	**AUDI TT** COUPE, manual, silver/blue with cream leather	**£2750**
08	**FORD** FOCUS ZETEC 5DR, in silver	**£2695**
56	**HYUNDAI** TUSCON CRTD GSI 5-DR DIESEL, in black	**£2495**
99	**MERCEDES** SLK 230 COMPRESSER COUPE AUTO, silver, leather seats	**£2495**
11	**CHEVROLET** SPARK, 1.2 in silver	**£2495**
05	**FORD** FIESTA 1.6 ZETEC S 3DR, in red in full Black Leather	**£1995**
05	**VW** GOLF 2.0 GTDi SPORT 6spd 3DR, in silver	**£1995**
57	**FORD** C-MAX DIESEL, in light blue metallic	**£1795**
55	**FORD** FOCUS 1.6 DIESEL 5DR, manual, in light blue metallic	**£1595**
55	**VOLVO** S40 1.8 PETROL, saloon	**£1550**
57	**MAZDA** 5 2.0 DIESEL SALOON, in blue	**£1500**

AUTOMATICS

2000 (X)	**TOYOTA** YARIS 1.3A VVTI AUTO GLS, 1 lady owner, full history, 20,000 miles	**£POA**
61	**FORD** FOCUS 2.0 TDI ZETEC AUTO	**£5495**
04	**MERCEDES** CLK Cabriolet, 240 AVANTGARDE AUTOMATIC, in sliver with full leather 60,000 fsh	**£3995**
57	**FORD** C-MAX AUTOMATIC, silver, 70,000	**£2795**
02	**HONDA** CRV 2.0 EXECUTIVE AUTOMATIC, black, full leather, sat nav, sunroof, full history	**£2795**
56	**VW** JETTA 1.9 DIESEL AUTO, saloon, silver, 79,000 miles	**£2495**
07	**PEUGEOT** 207 AUTO, black, 60,00 miles	**£2295**

7 SEATERS

55	**VAUXHALL** ZAFIRA TD DESIGN, silver, 7 seats	**£2495**
54	**VW** SHARAN SE TDI DIESEL 5DR, grey, 7 seater	**£1795**

CARS from £500-£1500 EASY PAYMENT DEALS AVAILABLE

57	**FORD** C-MAX DIESEL, manual, met blue, brand new clutch	**£1495**
06	**VAUXHALL** CORSA 1.2 SXI, in silver	**£1495**
53	**MERCEDES** C220 CDI, manual saloon, in silver	**£1495**
05	**FORD** STREET KA	**£1495**
08	**CHEVROLET** MATIZ 1.0 5DR, in silver, only 50,000 miles	**£1495**
02	**VOLVO S40** SE 2.0, manual saloon in silver blue with full leather and FSH	**£1495**
52	**HONDA** JAZZ 1.3 SE 5DR, blue	**£1395**
56	**FIAT** PUNTO 3-DR, in light blue, 64k	**£1295**
06	**FORD** FOCUS DIESEL TDCI ZETEC 5DR, blue	**£1295**
04	**FORD** FIESTA 5DR, light blue	**£1295**
55	**SUZUKI** ALTO 1.1 5DR, blue, 70,000 miles	**£1295**
04	**FORD** STREET KA CABRIOLET 2DR, blue, leather	**£1295**
55	**FORD** KA 1.3 3DR, red 56,000 miles	**£1250**
55	**FORD** FOCUS ZETEC SALOON TITANIUM, in silver	**£1250**
52	**VOLVO** ESTATE V70 2.4 MANUAL, metallic red, leather	**£995**
52	**FORD** KA, silver, only 44,000 miles, silver, full MoT	**£995**
55	**FIAT** PUNTO 1.2 5DR, black	**£995**
52	**FORD** KA, in silver, full mot, complete new clutch, only 42,000 miles	**£995**
04	**VAUXHALL** CORSA LIFE 1.2, in silver, 61,000 miles	**£995**
04	**RENAULT** SCENIC 1.6 16V 5DR, in grey, 1 owner, full history, 56,000 miles	**£895**
53	**CITROEN** PICASSO 1.8 16V SX, in blue	**£795**
51	**HYUNDAI** 1.0 AMICA 5DR, 46,000 miles, blue metallic	**£795**
04	**FORD** FIESTA 1.2, in red	**£695**

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Driving into work is often the only option if you live in quieter towns or villages

The outro for Brexit is way longer than rock songs are

THERESA May is definitely the most Prog Rock Prime Minister that Britain's ever had. Regardless of whether you voted Remain or Leave you've got to hand it to her; the outro for Brexit is *way* longer than anything Genesis or Pink Floyd could have rustled up.

So I'm mightily relieved that over the weekend – day 4,372,918 of discussions over the nation's EU departure! – the national press had something other than Theresa's comeback gig to tune into, and just to get things off politics it was motoring-themed, too.

Nope, not whether it's right that a 97-year-old who pulled out in front of some suspecting drivers should be told off for being spotted not wearing a seatbelt barely a day after being involved in a horrendous collision. Or the shock discovery that the husband of Her Majesty the Queen is given a Land Rover Freelander – a car that's been out of production for nearly five years – to tootle about in.

In fact, the thing that got quite a lot of people wound up was some AA research revealing that at least 10 local councils are considering introducing charges on workplaces with more than ten parking spaces, which works out roughly at a grand a year, per person.

It worked a treat in Nottingham – so now Edinburgh, Glasgow and parts of London are playing with the idea too.

Go for it, London – you can handle it, if your swanky DLR, Crossrail and Croydon tram network is anything to go by, and I reckon Glasgow and Edinburgh are well connected enough to make it worth their while, too.

But I can't imagine that the mate of mine who drives half an hour from Birkdale into Rainford every morning would be terribly thrilled at having to fork out an extra £1,000 for the privilege – or face a journey that's three times longer, massively more expensive and which he has to take all his tools on the bus with him.

Equally, I'd love to take the train rather than the car into work from the quiet market town where I live – if trains and buses ran that early.

Parking levies only work if people have a realistic choice in the matter. I'm sure it's fine if you live in Bootle and work in the middle of Liverpool, but what if you live in a small village in one of the remoter bits of West Lancashire?

The AA called the plans a Poll Tax on Wheels but I'd go further than that – it's picking on people who, I'd put my not-terribly-well-connected house on, are driving into work because that's the only option they have.

The only crumb of comfort is that it's something that's only being considered by individual councils rather that being a nationwide, blanket charge that's been dreamt up in Whitehall – but then I suspect that the Government's a bit busy with other things right now.

Like reminding Prince Philip that it's about time for him to replace his Freelander with a Discovery Sport, for starters…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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2017 (17)	**HYUNDAI i10 PREMIUM 5DR,** in white, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, £20 road tax **ONLY SIXTEEN THOUSAND MILES**	**£7,995**
2016 (66)	**FORD FIESTA 1.0 ECOBOOST 5DR SPECIAL EDITION,** in candy blue, with white roof, mirrors and wheels, A/C, e/pack, CD etc, nil road tax **ONLY NINE THOUSAND MILES**	**£9,995**
2016 (65)	**FORD B-MAX 1.6 ZETEC AUTOMATIC,** in burnished glow, with A/C, e/pack, alloys HSF, CD etc, **ONLY SEVEN THOUSAND MILES**	**£9,995**
2015 (65)	**FORD C-MAX 1.6 ZETEC,** in burnished glow, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY THREE THOUSAND MILES**	**£11,995**
2015 (65)	**RENAULT CAPTUR DYNAMIQUE,** in copper/black, with sat nav, A/C, e/pack, alloys etc, **ONLY NINE THOUSAND MILES**	**£10,995**
2015 (65)	**TOYOTA YARIS 1.33 ICON 5DR,** in silver, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY FIVE THOUSAND MILES**	**£9,495**
2015 (15)	**CITROEN DS3 PURETECH 1.2 DSTYLE NAV,** in purple, with sat nav, A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD, CC etc, £20 road tax, only 24,000 miles	**£8,995**
2015 (15)	**CITROEN C1 AIRDREAM FLAIR,** in carlinite grey, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY ELEVEN THOUSAND MILES**	**£6,995**
2015 (15)	**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 LIMITED EDITION,** in red/black, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY NINETEEN THOUSAND MILES**	**£7,495**
2015 (15)	**VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 PETROL SE,** in silver, with full leather, A/C, e/pack, power fold mirrors, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY THIRTEEN THOUSAND MILES**	**£10,995**
2015 (64)	**SKODA FABIA 1.25 ELEGANCE 5DR,** in met red, with full spec, **ONLY NINE THOUSAND MILES**	**£7,995**
2014 (14)	**HONDA CRV SE 1.6 DIESEL,** in met grey, with sat nav, A/C, e/pack, cc, alloys, CD etc, only 43,000 miles, £30 road tax	**£11,495**
2014 (14)	**VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 JAM,** in met red, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY FIFTEEN THOUSAND MILES**	**£6,495**
2014 (14)	**CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE 5DR,** in met blue, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, **ONLY TWELVE THOUSAND MILES**	**£6,995**
2013 (63)	**VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 2.0 CDTI 5-DR,** in white with A.C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, £30 road tax **ONLY THIRTY THOUSAND MILES**	**£7,495**
2013 (13)	**RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXPRESSION 5DR,** in met red, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 23,000 miles	**£6,695**
2012 (62)	**KIA RIO THREE 1.4 DIESEL 5-DR,** in met grey, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, £20 road tax, only 54,000 miles	**£4,995**
2009 (59)	**VOLVO C30 SE DIESEL,** in red, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 55,000 miles	**£4,995**
2009 (59)	**SEAT ALTEA SE TDi MPV ESTATE,** in metallic red, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, 90,000 miles	**£3,995**
2009 (09)	**HONDA JAZZ EXECUTIVE AUTOMATIC,** in met blue, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 55,000 miles	**£4,495**
2003 (03)	**JAGUAR X-TYPE 4-DR SALOON,** in silver, with A/C, sat nav, e/pack, alloys, CD etc **ONLY SIXTY THOUSAND MILES**	**£1,995**

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64 Reg Vauxhall Corsa Excite 1.4 90PS 5dr
• Dark Sea Blue • 20635 Miles

ONLY £6999 OR £129 PER MONTH

65 Reg Vauxhall Adam Energised 1.2 70PS
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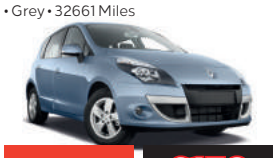
64 Reg Renault Scenic Dynamique Energy dCi
• Grey • 32661 Miles



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ONLY £7999 OR £159 PER MONTH

65 REG VAUXHALL VIVA 1.0i 75PS SE, SOLAR RED, 7575 MILES £6999
64 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORT TOURER 1.6i 16V 115PS SRI, BLACK SAPPHIRE, 34173 MILES £7499
16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR 1.4 90PS ENERGY, BLUE, 11175 MILES £7990
16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR 1.4 75PS ENERGY, GREY, 15291 MILES £7999
16 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 5DR 1.4 90PS ENERGY, PERSIAN BLUE, 11459 MILES £7999
15 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0CDTI 140 SE, BLACK, 52548 MILES £7999
65 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.4 90PS LIMITED EDITION, SUMMIT WHITE, 27141 MILES £7999
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65 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.6 115PS SE, BORACAY BLUE, 20069 MILES £9990
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67 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.4T 150PS ELITE AUTO, RED, 3192 MILES £13999
67 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SPORT TOURER 2.0 CDTI 170 SRI NAV, LAVA RED, 2185 MILES £16799
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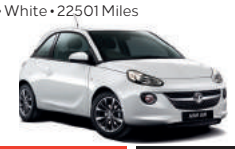

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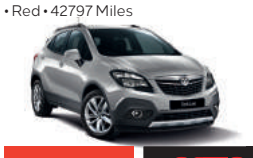

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67 REG VAUXHALL CROSSLAND X 1.6T DIESEL 99PS SE SS, BLUE, 6714 MILES £11999
68 REG VAUXHALL CORSA 3DR 1.4 90PS ENERGY, PERSIAN BLUE, 1855 MILES £12499
17 REG VAUXHALL INSIGNIA GRAN SPORT 1.5T 165 SRI NAV, SILVER, 27973 MILES £12999
67 REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 5DR 1.6 CDTI 136PS SRI VX-LINE , GREY, 7033 MILES £12999
67 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA X 1.4T 140PS ACTIVE ECOTEC , BLUE, 16549 MILES £12999
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15 Mercedes A180 1.5 Cdi Se 5 Dr

Specification;
- 1 Owner
- FSH
- 47000 Miles

Was £12995 — Now £12495

60 Ford Fiesta Zetec 5 Dr

£19 Per Week

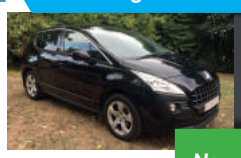
Was £5495 — Now £4995

61 Fiat 500 Choice Of 2

£19 Per Week

Was £5495 — Now £4995

11 Peugoet 3008 1.6 Hdi Sport



£22 Per Week

Was £5995 — Now £5495

61 Ford Focus 2.0 Tdci Titanium 5 Dr

£24 Per Week

Was £6495 — Now £5995

15 Ford Fiesta 1.5 DCi 5 Dr

£24 Per Week

Was £7495 — Now £6995

64 Renault Clio 1.2 Expression + 5 Dr

£29 Per Week

Was £7495 — Now £6995

62 VW Golf 1.2 5 Dr

£29 Per Week

Was £7495 — Now £6995

64 Renault Megane 1.5 Dci Dynamique 5 Dr

£32 Per Week

Was £7995 — Now £7495

15 Ford Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5 Dr

£34 Per Week

Was £8495 — Now £7995

14 Ford Focus 1.0 Zetec Nav 5 Dr

£34 Per Week

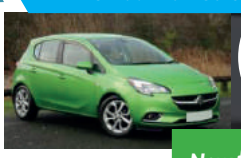
Was £8495 — Now £7995

64 Ford Mondeo Tdci Titanium X Business Edt Estate

£39 Per Week

Was £9495 — Now £8995

15 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE 5 Dr



£39 Per Week

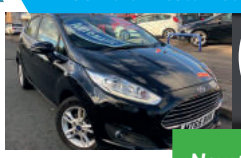
Was £9495 — Now £8995

63 BMW 116 Diesel Se 5 Dr

£42 Per Week

Was £9995 — Now £9495

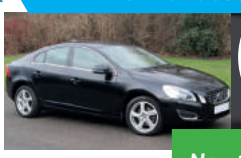
65 Ford Fiesta Zetec Auto 5 Dr



£42 Per Week

Was £9995 — Now £9495

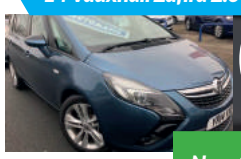
64 Volvo S60 Diesel 4 Dr



£42 Per Week

Was £9995 — Now £9495

14 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 Cdti Sri Auto



£43 Per Week

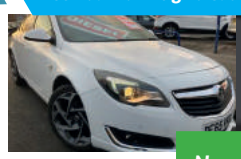
Was £10295 — Now £9695

66 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Zetec 5 Dr

£43 Per Week

Was £10695 — Now £9995

65 Vauxhall Insignia Cdti Sri Vx Line 5 Dr



£47 Per Week

Was £10995 — Now £10495

65 Vauxhall Moka 1.6 Se 5 Dr

£47 Per Week

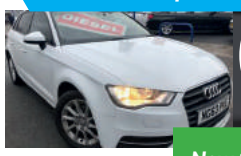
Was £10995 — Now £10495

15 Ford Mondeo 1.6 Tddci Titanium 5 Dr

£48 Per Week

Was £11495 — Now £10795

63 Audi A3 Sportback 2.0 Tdi SE



£48 Per Week

Was £10995 — Now £10795

09 Mitsubishi Shogun 3.0 D Diamond Lwb Auto,

£49 Per Week

Was £11995 — Now £10995

66 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Cdti Sri 5 Dr

£49 Per Week

Was £11695 — Now £10995

15 VW Passat 1.6 Tdi Se Business Edt 4 Dr

£49 Per Week

Was £11695 — Now £10995

16 Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Zetec S 5 Dr

Specification;
- 1 Owner
- Priv Glass
- Alloys

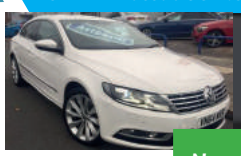
Was £12495 — Now £11995

64 Ford S Max 2.0 Tdci Titanium Auto

Specification;
- 7 Seater
- Bluetooth
- 53000 Miles

Was £12595 — Now £11995

64 VW Passat CC 2.0 Tdi Gt Auto



Specification;
- Leather
- Sat Nav
- Priv Glass

Was £12495 — Now £11995

16 Peugoet 3008 1.6 Hdi Auto

Specification;
- 21000 Miles
- CD Player
- Air Con

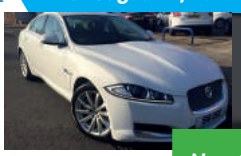
Was £12495 — Now £11995

13 Mercedes C250 Cdi Amg Sport Estate

Specification;
- Automatic
- 68000 Miles
- FSH

Was £12495 — Now £11995

62 Jaguar Xf 2.2 Diesel Luxury



Specification;
- Leather
- Sat Nav
- Alloys

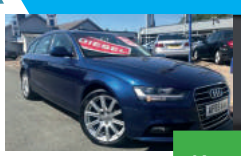
Was £12995 — Now £11995

65 Renault Kadjar 1.6 Di Dynamique S

Specification;
- 1 Owner
- 1/2 Leather
- Sat Nav

Was £12595 — Now £11995

65 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Technic SE Estate



Specification;
- 1 Owner
- FSH
- Leather

Was £13995 — Now £12795

64 Bmw 116 Diesel M Sport 5 Dr

Specification;
- Alloys
- 41000 miles
- Rear Priv Glass

Was £13595 — Now £12895

65 Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Titanium

Specification;
- 1 Owner
- FSH
- 1/2 Leather

Was £13595 — Now £12995

64 Bmw 520 Diesl Se Auto 4 Dr

Specification;
- 1 Owner
- FSH
- 62000 Miles

Was £14995 — Now £13995

65 Mercedes B180 1.5 Cdi Se Auto

Specification;
- 1 Owner
- 17000 Miles
- Leather

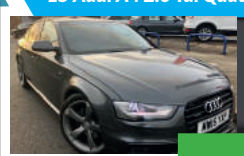
Was £14995 — Now £13995

15 Mercedes A180 1.5 Cdi AMG Sport 5 Dr

Specification;
- 55000 Miles
- Upgraded Alloys
- 1/2 Leather

Was £15495 — Now £14995

15 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Quattro S Line 4 Dr



Specification;
- 33000 Miles
- Sat Nav
- Upgraded Alloys

Was £18995 — Now £17995

15 Audi A6 2.0 Tdi Sline Black Edt Auto

Specification;
- 39000 Miles
- Sat Nav
- Leather

Was £20995 — Now £19995

66 BMW 640 D Grand Coupe M Sport 4DR

Specification;
- Auto
- 25000 Miles
- Leather

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Joel Douglas in action last Saturday for Skem

Desperate need for points in the scrap to avoid relegation

AFTER Saturday's defeat, the big question among Skelmersdale United supporters is can they avoid relegation?

Yet to win a home game and with only three draws to show from 12 league games at Voliar Park, Prescot, Skelmersdale actually have a better away record than a home record.

Their one win came at promotion chasing Radcliffe and another three draws on the road.

This Saturday they face a trip to Ramsbottom United when they will be desperate to pick up three points.

However, Skelmersdale have some home games to come that are very winnable, including games against the five of the six teams immediately above them in the Evo-Stik West table, so on paper they have every chance of picking up points, if they can just start winning at home.

Saturday's match will be a tough one, Ramsbottom are in top form, they changed managers midway through the season and have secured a place in the last 16 of the FA Trophy thanks to a midweek win at Weymouth last week. They also won 5-0 at Glossop on Saturday.

Skem follow the Rammy away game with a home match against Clitheroe, who are 11 points ahead of Skem and only seven points away from relegation.

They struggled to beat Skelmersdale 2-1 with a last minute goal in east Lancashire during November, so it is an opportunity for Skem.

Dates that Skelmersdale supporters should note are March 2, when Glossop are at Skelmersdale and March 23, when they entertain Droylsden.

The thought is that Skelmersdale can save themselves as they are not the only team doing badly.

Paul McNally has strengthened the squad, and a bit of consistency and the odd point picked up on the road means they can do it.

		MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
15	Droylsden	20	7	3	10	38	41	-3	24
16	Chasetown	25	5	8	12	32	47	-15	23
17	Clitheroe	24	5	5	14	33	58	-25	20
18	Glossop North End	23	3	7	13	23	48	-25	16
19	Kendal Town	23	3	4	16	18	50	-32	13
20	Skelmersdale United	24	1	6	17	18	66	-48	9

Skem are rooted to the bottom of the table

Wasteful Skem made to pay for missed chances in ill-tempered clash

Defeat leaves Paul McNally's side rooted to bottom of the league table

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 0
Chasetown 2

SKELMERSDALE United wasted chances in the first half and were made to pay by a clinical Chasetown.

Both teams needed to win on a muddy pitch at Voliar Park and both teams adopted positive tactics from the off, although at times play was technically a bit scrappy and feisty.

Significantly, Skelmersdale were without striker George Donnelly who had a commitment to fulfil that was made before he recently joined the club.

Skem went straight onto the offensive and but for a full stretch grasp from Chasetown goalkeeper Curtis Pond, Davy Moore's first minute cross might well have found a home forward.

In the 12th minute Skelmersdale went very close, after the ball was laid back to him on the right, Tom Molyneux swept a first time right foot cross to the far post Joel Douglas ran onto it only to see his header strike the post with keeper Pond seemingly beaten.

Connor Belger was looking dangerous for Skem, on one occasion he didn't quite have the pace to shake off his marker and get in a clean shot when put in, while in the 22nd minute his 20 yard shot was saved via a full length dive by Pond.

Skelmersdale were well on top and Chasetown had to rely on counterattacking moves. In one such move a finely timed challenge by Michael White saw off Will Whieldon.

Play for a while got bad tempered and Cocks was the instigator of much of the bad feeling, but not before Moore brought another excellent save out of Pond, this time the keepers legs coming to Chasetown's rescue after Belger had set him up.

Chasetown came more into the game as the interval approached Terry Smith making a solid save from Tom Hill's header and another easier one from a Whieldon free-kick.

During the half-time interval much of the conversation was whether Skelmersdale had missed their chance to win the game, they could easily have been 2-0 up.

Soon after the restart keeper Pond just beat Douglas to a Tom Molyneux through ball, and John Keatley had a goal bound effort blocked by a defender.

Chasetown were starting to have more of the possession but it was far from exclusive to them, noticeably too both defences looked better organised and you began to wonder where a goal was coming from.

When the Chasetown goal arrived on 62 minutes Skelmersdale were caught out.

Left-back Matt Coughlan pulled up with what turned out to be a hamstring injury and at the same time Chasetown left-back, Walsall loanee Callum Cockerill-Mollett sent a superb 35 yard cross from left to right, perfectly into the path of striker Hill, from an acute angle he sent a shot across Smith into the far corner to make it 1-0.

Skelmersdale went onto the attack and now had most of the play; however on 75 minutes Skem were down to ten men.

A long clearance was won by White and at the same time Cocks jumped in with a late challenge, White reacted and kicked out at Cocks and was shown a red card.

Reduced to ten men Skelmersdale were up against it, manager Paul McNally made changes in an attempt to equalise and substitute Tom Grimshaw had a shot saved by Pond.

In the 83rd minute, with his first touch new signing Henry Kamara had a close range shot saved by Pond, then Skem had a string of corners and with a touch more fire power they might have levelled.

Finally in the 87th minute with Skelmersdale committed up front the ball was lost just inside the Skem half, Cocks poking the ball through to Hill who was not given offside.

He was clear and as Smith left his line Hill lifted the ball over Smith and sent it agonisingly from a Skelmersdale perspective bouncing into the net.

Manager Paul McNally was not happy with the second-half performance, saying: "In the first-half I thought we did really well, dominated it.

"We just haven't taken our chances in the second-half and it's like this every week from us for some reason.

"We have a game of two halves, one half well the other half not so well. I have got no complaints with the scoreline at the end, but things are different if we go in 1-0 or 2-0 at half-time."

Michael White, who was sent off for Skelmersdale United. Pictures by John Driscoll

Linnets set for return to action with derby encounter

BURSCOUGH have a local derby against Ashton Athletic at Victoria Park on Saturday.

The Linnets are probably condemned to a midway place this season, as it will be difficult to catch up the leading two and barring some kind of fluke they are already clear of relegation trouble. The Linnets only travelled to Ashton in December when they returned home with three points thanks to a 2-1 victory, despite playing with ten men for more than an hour.

Burscough currently sit in 9th place in the league table, having recorded 40 points from 26 games played.

They can leapfrog Ashton with a win, as they are only two points ahead of Burscough in sixth place.

This week's game against Ashton Athletic is followed on Saturday, February 2 with a home against Barnoldswick Town. Linnets regulars could suffer withdrawal symptoms as things stand because if there are no alterations to the fixture list they are not scheduled to be at home again until Saturday, March 16, 42 days without a home game.

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